Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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Key Results

Yeltsin: 'No Grounds To Be Worried' About Results

LD2012101795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1009 GMT 20 Dec 95

[By Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW December 20 (Itar-Tass) — "The elections passed satisfactorily," President Boris Yeltsin said on Wednesday, expressing confidence that Russia "will be able to pursue the previous political course" with the new composition of the State Duma (Russian parliament lower house).

"We have no grounds to be worried and describe the elections as a tragedy," the president stressed at a ceremony of awarding marshal stars (Eds: Marshal stars are a badge of insignia and awarded to generals of the army and marshals in Russia) at the Barvikha health-building center.

Yeltsin noted that Communists won 20 percent of the electorate, the Liberal Democratic Party — much less, while the Agrarian Party did not pass the five-percent barrier at all and is now not represented at the Duma.

"The majority in the new Duma belongs to those who pursue and will pursue the policy of democratization and ensurance of human rights and freedoms, which Russia started and from which it will not retreat," the president stressed.

Zyuganov Calls For Government Resignations

LD2012101895 Rome RAI Radio Uno Network in Italian 0700 GMT 20 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] Following the elections in Russia, the communist leader Zyuganov told our correspondent Marc Inel where he stands after his success in last Sunday's elections.

[Inel] According to what are almost the final results, the Communists are confirmed as the largest party in the new Duma, the lower house of the Russian parliament, with at least 180 deputies out of 450. Their leader Gennadiy Zyuganov is the real winner in this election, and is already preparing to make the life of Victor Chernomyrdin as hard as possible, given the presidential elections to be held in June. But what does he intend to do immediately, we asked him.

[Begin Zyuganov recording in Russian fading into Italian report] First, he says, we want straightaway to change the course of economic reforms, which has drained Russia for the past four years. The country is completely drained, said Zyuganov, and on Sunday it sent a very strong signal to this government. Victor Chernomyrdin is not stupid. If he wants to stay in office, he must get rid of many incompetent ministers, first of all Chubays, Shakhray and Foreign Minister Kozyrev, before the new parliament is officially inaugurated on 15 January.

[Inel] Mr. Zyuganov, there are six months to go until the presidential elections. Do you think that Boris Yeltsin still has any chance of being reelected?

[Zyuganov] You tell me what chance there is for a man who ordered the old Russian parliament to be shelled, and who made himself responsible for the fall of the Soviet Union, the complete destruction of the economy and the war in Chechnya.

NDR May Have 52 Seats in New Duma

LD1912203495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1915 GMT 19 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Dec 19,(Interfax) — Experts in the Russian government's headquarters believe that the Our Home Is Russia (NDR) movement is likely to have 43 seats in the new State Duma on the party ticket and nine won in single seat constituencies.

A government expert told Interfax Tuesday that the Communist Party of the Russian Federation [CPRF] will, judging by the early election results, have 96 seats on the party ticket and 45 to 50 won in single seat constituencies.

The Agrarian Party of Russia will have 15 MPs elected in the constituencies. They are most likely to make a bloc with the KPRF group.

Vladimir Zhirinovskiy will have 49 seats on the party ticket and one seat won in a local constituency.

YaBLoko will have 37 and 12 seats, respectively.

If, however, Women of Russia or Russia's Democratic Choice - United Democrats overcome the 5 percent plank, the KPRF [as received] will lose eight, the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] three or four and the NDR three seats.

Officials in the government headquarters say that 80 to 90 independents were elected to the State Duma.

An expert said that some of them are supporters of Our Home Is Russia and are expected to join its party group.

"We expect MPs to redistribute among the party groups as soon as the new State Duma opens," he explained.

The expert expects a stalemate in the new State Duma with the CPRF not having enough votes to carry its motions on its own but capable of blocking any motion by democratic groups.

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A total of 450 MPs have to be elected, 225 on party tickets and 225 in single seat constituencies.

Aide—Yeltsin To Work With New State Duma

LD1912192895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1922 GMT 19 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, December 19 (Itar-Tass) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin "will work" with the newly elected State Duma, presidential political aide Georgiy Satarov said in an interview with the Russian TV program Podrobnosti (Details) today.

Commenting of Yeltsin's response to the preliminary returns, Satarov quoted "disappointment of the president with the high results of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation."

Satarov did not rule out that the president would offer to communists several portfolios in the government. He voiced confidence, however, that communists would get no key posts in the Cabinet.

Satarov forecast that communists would win over 150 parliamentary seats, which would empower them to motion the sacking of the present government.

The presidential aide added that Yeltsin has in store a "broad spectrum" of moves to countermand this.

Satarov did not rule out that Yeltsin would meet for consultations Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, the leader of the liberal Yabloko bloc.

Zyuganov Plans Plenum To Organize Presidential Platform

LD1912163395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1613 GMT 19 Dec 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Alexandrova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, December 19 — Russian communist leader Gennadiy Zyuganov on Tuesday said his party will hold a Central Committee plenum before mid-January to define its stance on upcoming presidential elections scheduled for June 16, 1996.

The Communist Party which won a comfortable majority in the Russian lower house in Sunday's elections will tackle preparations for the presidential race "in real earnest," Zuyganov told a news conference on Tuesday.

He said forming an extensive coalition is the party's major goal at this stage. After the plenum, the party leadership will negotiate the issue with "allies and fellow-travellers" of the party, whereas in February the Central Committee will convene a conference on presidential elections.

Describing his plans for the faction's work in the Duma, Zyuganov said they will work for adopting a package of social security laws and cooperate "with all those who value interests of the working people." He named the Agrarian Party of Russia (APR) as the communists' traditional ally and expressed the hope that it will surpass the 5-percent barrier and enter the Duma. Zyuganov predicted 20 APR single-seat constituency candidates to gain seats in the lower house.

The communist leader also said he expects some Cabinet reshuffling to occur "in the nearest future." This can be expected to occur before January 15 when the new Duma will held its first session, he specified.

Zyuganov hopes that his party will get about 30 percent of the party list vote and attributes the success to a "big organizational and program (ideological) potential." However, he called on Western journalists not to let the communists' victory in Russia scare anybody. "Our attitude to everything is absolutely balanced and we are interested in the country's civilized development," he stressed.

Election Update: Still Only 4 Parties Clear Barrier

LD1912154095 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1505 GMT 19 Dec 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Natalya Panshina]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 19 Dec — Aleksandr Veshnyakov, secretary of the Central Electoral Commission, told journalists today about the latest results of elections to the State Duma based on the federal list from 134 federal constituencies at 1700 Moscow time. As before only four associations have overcome the 5 percent barrier: the Russian Communist Party (21.5 percent), the Liberal Democratic Party (10.8), Russia Is Our Home (9.7), and Yabloko (7.7).

Those close to the 5 percent barrier are Women of Russia (4.7), Communists - Workers' Russia for the USSR (4.6), Democratic Choice of Russia (4.4), Congress of Russian Communities (4.2), Agrarian Party (4.1) and Party of Workers' Self-Government (4.0).

The Central Electoral Commission will provide new and more precise preliminary figures on Wednesday.

Zhirinovskiy Rules Out Duma Alliance With CPRF

LD1912152495 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1400 GMT 19 Dec 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The atmosphere at a news conference given by the leader of the Liberal Democratic

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Party [LDPR] resembled that of a full house in a theater. The hero turned up late and reservedly thanked the media for its difficult daily work. When there was mention of violations, which, according to Zhirinovskiy's colleagues, had been registered in the localities, Vladimir Volfovich returned to his usual style which his audience knows ever so well.

[Begin Zhirinovskiy recording] We know about instances of falsification and about the juggling with the facts all over the country. We know about this. From Sakhalin to Kaliningrad everything and everywhere things have been done not in favor of the LDPR. [end recording]

However, the leader, gripped by emotions, failed to give any facts. Despite the fact that his party got quite good results in the elections, he launched an attack on his more successful colleagues in the parliament.

[Begin Zhirinovskiy recording] We regard these elections as the second victory for the LDPR because a deal between the Communist Party of the Russian Federation and the Agrarians allowed them to unite two parties, so to speak, and their votes. [end recording]

Zhirinovskiy categorically dismissed the possibility of an alliance between this party and the communists in the new Duma.

Constituency Results Updated; 195 Seats Counted

LD1912151295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1456 GMT 19 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, December 19 (Itar-Tass) - Follow specified results of State Duma elections in 195 out of 225 one-seat constituencies as announced by the Central Electoral Commission at 17:00 on Tuesday:

Independent candidates	68
Communist Party	49
Agrarian Party	19
Yabloko	12
Our Home is Russia	10
Democratic Russia's Choice	8
Congress of Russian Communities	5
Power to People bloc	3
Ivan Rybkin bloc	3
Independent candidates	68
Panfilova-Gurov-Lysenko bloc	2
Forward Russia	2
Women of Russia	3
Liberal Democratic Party	1
My Fatherland	1
Communists Labour of Russia-for USSR	1
Stanislav Govorukhin bloc	1
Common Cause	1
89 regions	1
Economic Freedom Party	1
Bloc of Independents	1
Party of Russian Unity and Accord	1
Transformation of the Fatherland	1
Workers' Self-Organisation Party	1

'Yabloko,' KRO Officials on Election Fortunes

MK1912125295 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Dec 95 p 3

[Report by Natalya Konstantinova: "Communists Got in the Way. 'Yabloko' and KRO Leaders on Their Losses"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to preliminary data, the "Yabloko" bloc is in fourth place on the federal list of State Duma candidates. Vyacheslav Igrunov, one of the bloc's leaders, comments of the course of the voting.

"We assessed our chances several months in advance, but the fact that Zhirinovskiy's percentages proved higher, and those of KRO [Congress of Russian Communities] lower, came as a surprise to us. As for "Yabloko," it has gotten 15 people in in single-seat constituencies alone, although we have also sustained serious losses."

The situation with KRO, which was slated to be a favorite, was surprising. However, by 1400 on 18 December, KRO had not cleared the 5-percent hurdle. Konstantin Zatulin comments on the situation: "In the first place, we have been a real, rather than a paper enemy of the government. In the ranks of KRO march the most implacable troublemakers Zatulin and Glazev who, here in the State Duma, have kept saying

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throughout 1995 that 'Carthage must be destroyed.' That is to say, the government should resign.

"Secondly, 'Russia Is Our Home [NDR]' had the jitters, because it was unclear what the Russian Federation president was going to do, whether he would ask Skokov to head the government after the voting. Incidentally, this is not totally ruled out despite whatever elections. Having wound up the struggle with communism, in which the Russian Federation president alone seems to have wrapped himself up, the NDR proceeded to 'pick off' KRO activists for all it was worth. I even have some reason to believe this was not done without a behind-the-scenes, unofficial agreement with the leadership of the CPRF [Communist Party of the Russian Federation]. At any rate, my own fate indicates that, despite all the chances to steer clear of one another in the south of Russia, two leaders of the Communist Party and KRO — Sevostyanov and Zatulin — came to grips precisely in one constituency."

Paper Cites Selected Local, Single-Seat Contest Results

MM1912113095 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 19 Dec 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "In Hope of a Better Life"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The preliminary State Duma election results confirm the general picture provided by the Central Electoral Commission.

The Communists lead the federal lists in many Federation components. This situation is typical not only of Siberia and the Far East but also of Central Russia. In particular, the Communist Party of the Russian Federation had a considerable lead in oblasts like Tambov (35 percent), Bryansk (33.8 percent), Belgorod (29.6 percent), and Smolensk (around 25 percent). Communists polled around 20 percent of the vote in Samara, Voronezh, Leningrad, Vladimir, and certain other oblasts in European Russia.

So far only sparse reports have come in regarding the leaders in the single-seat districts and they are strictly of a preliminary nature. State Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin, who outstripped the renowned KGB General Aleksandr Sterligov (Voronezh Oblast); Svyatoslav Fedorov (Chuvashia); former USSR Supreme Soviet Speaker Anatoliy Lukyanov (Smolensk Oblast); General Albert Makashov (Samara Oblast); CPRF St. Petersburg Oblast Committee leader Yuriy Belov (Leningrad Oblast), and journalist Aleksandr Nevzorov (Pskov Oblast) are among the well-known names that have gotten past their rivals.

But by and large preference has been given in single-seat districts to local leaders on whom the population are pinning their hopes of an improvement in their lives.

Banks Show Reserved Reaction to Election Results

LD1812180395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1633 GMT 18 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Dec 18 (FIA-Interfax) — Representatives of major Russian banks show reserved reaction to the results of elections for the State Duma and decline to predict the elections' influence on the banking crisis in the country.

Tokobank President Vyacheslav Khokhlov told Interfax's Financial Information Agency today that "from the political point of view the election results brought no surprises." He voiced the hope that the new State Duma would work more professionally and better interact for creating conditions for restoring the national economy as soon as possible.

Khokhlov said he believed that personnel changes concerning the executive power's leadership were more important for commercial structures. "For commercial banks the main point is stability and how balanced is the policy pursued by the Central Bank," he said.

"Western investors will not be bewildered with the elections results and will not suspend the implementation of program for supporting the Russian economy," Khokhlov said.

First Deputy President of the Promstroibank Stanislav Degtyarev declined to comment on early results of the State Duma elections. "If political ambitions get the upper hand among MPs there will be no time left for adopting laws ensuring the Russian economy's stable development," he said.

"I would be very much disappointed with foreign investors if they suspended the financing of projects in Russia proceeding just from the election results. There is so far no reason to do so," Degtyarev said.

President of Moscow's Stolichniy Savings Bank (SBS) Aleksander Smolensky declined to comment on the new State Duma's make-up. He said his bank's performance was not linked with politics.

A senior employee of Tver's Tveruniversalbank also said his bank's policy was not to get involved with politics.

Chairman of the Central Bank of Russia Sergey Dubinin said the priority was to ensure the consistency of the State Duma's performance when new deputies took over the legislature.

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"It would be unreasonable and inefficient to rework draft laws which have already gone through several readings in the State Duma," Dubinin said. He said the draft law on declaring commercial banks bankrupt would be one of the first documents regarding the banking sector to be submitted for consideration by the new Duma.

Regional Activities

Regional Constituencies Report on Election Results

LD2012112395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1028 GMT 20 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, December 20 (Itar-Tass) — Vote counting continues in Russian regional constituencies which are reporting on the results of the elections to the State Duma held on December 17. The general tendency remains invariable with the Communist Party of the Russian Federation (CPRF) holding a clear lead under the federal list system.

The CPRF is in the lead in Dagestan (56 per cent), Adygeya (42 per cent), Chuvashia (35 per cent), Bashkiria (24,9 per cent), Buryatia (27.1 per cent), Hakasia (21.6 per cent), Gorno-Altay (25,9 per cent.) The Communist Party has won over 30 per cent of votes in the Tambov, Orel, Penza, Bryansk, Volgograd, Smolensk, Ryazan regions. There are quite a few regions which cast only 12-15 per cent of votes in the CPRF favour, which told on the overall results.

The "Our Home is Russia" bloc holds a clear lead over other rivaling blocs in Chechnya (50 per cent), Ingushetia (30 per cent), Tatarstan (28,6 per cent), Kabardino-Balkaria (23.9 per cent.)

According to preliminary reports which came to Itar-Tass, the Liberal Democratic party led by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy has won in the Maritime region, and the Yabloko bloc led by Grigoriy Yavlinskiy has won the majority of votes in Kamchatka.

Independents, Communists Lead in One-Seat Constituencies

LD2012083395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0807 GMT 20 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, December 20 (Itar-Tass) — Follow updated results of State Duma elections in one-seat constituencies as for Wednesday (winners known in 215 out of 225 constituencies):

Independent	73
Communist Party	53
Agrarian Party	20
Yabloko	14
Our Home is Russia	10
Democratic Russia's Choice	10
Nikolay Ryzhkov party	7
Congress of Russian Communities	5
Ivan Rybkin bloc	3
Forward Russia	3
Women of Russia	3
Panfilova-Gurov-Lysenko coalition	2

12 parties and blocs succeeded to win in only one one-seat constituency.

Pattern of Regional Voting Viewed

MK2012072895 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 19 Dec 95 p 2

[Report by Dmitriy Kamyshev: "Voting in the Regions. The Left in the Lead. But This Is All They Are Capable of Today"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Despite a series of surprises, there has been nothing especially unexpected about the voting in Russia's regions: The voters' sympathies remain roughly the same, with votes only going from one party to another, similar one. Strange as it may seem, this is not contrary to the fact that the voters' preferences are rather a patchwork, with many casting their votes for a familiar face rather than for an idea.

One of the main distinctive features of the elections is that the noticeable regional predilections have left almost unaffected the leading position of the CPRF [Communist Party of the Russian Federation]. While in 1993, "Russia's Choice" got ahead of the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] in many federation components, now the Communists are in an undisputed lead in an absolute majority of regions. Exceptions from this rule are few: The hearts of the voters in Magadan Oblast and Maritime Kray are still warmed more by the fiery ideas of liberal democracy, whereas the inhabitants of Kalmykia again heeded the view of their leader, Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, and backed the NDR ["Russia

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Is Our Home"]. Both capitals and the president's homeland, Sverdlovsk Oblast, have confirmed their reformist image by leaving the CPRF in the third spot.

Under the opposition's onslaught fell those regions which only recently have been known as bulwarks of democracy. For example, while keeping its second position in Chelyabinsk Oblast, "Yabloko" ended up between the CPRF and the Congress of Russian Communities [KRO], with KRO candidates in the lead in three of the five single-seat constituencies. Confirming their confidence in Governor Nemtsov, Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast voters cast their ballots for the CPRF and the LDPR (18 and 12 percent, correspondingly) edging the until recently popular "Yabloko" into the third position (10 percent). An even sharper turn was made by the inhabitants of Kemerovo Oblast, once mostly pro-reformist: Nearly 50 percent of the votes put in the lead the CPRF comrades in arms of Oblast Duma Speaker Aman Tuleyev. Not surprisingly, the NDR and "Yabloko" could not even clear the 5-percent hurdle in Kuzbass.

The list of parties clearing the 5-percent hurdle next to the CPRF is largely indicative of the differences in party preferences in the regions. For example, the CPRF and the LDPR lead in the Far East is "further aggravated" by the fact that Anpilov's "Working Russia" won there another 5.2 percent.

In some places, the number of the lucky ones which won the coveted 5 percent is rather limited. In Bashkortostan, for example, such blocs numbered as few as five, with half the votes split between the Communists (30 percent) and the Agrarians (20 percent). Incidentally, the general failure of the APR [Agrarian Party of Russia], which was a relative success only in traditionally agrarian regions like the Altay, can be seen as one of the unexpected developments, because electorates which are potentially close to the Agrarians play a decisive role in many federation components. Incidentally, the Agrarians' defeat was due to a high turnout among urban inhabitants. The opinion of rural inhabitants, which determined the Agrarians' victory in the previous elections, this time was dissolved in the opinion of urban dwellers.

Yet another result was the confirmation of the well-known fact that Russian voters cast their ballots for leaders they know rather than for programs. This is seen in the results of voting in single-seat constituencies, where the winners or front-runners are representatives of blocks listed as clear outsiders. Such party members without parties include, in particular, Irina Khakamada ("Common Cause"), Boris Fedorov ("Forward, Russia!"), Nikolay Ryzhkov and Sergey Baburin ("Power to the People"), Aleksandr Lebed (KRO), Konstantin Borovoy (Economic Freedom Party), and Ivan Rybkin, leader of the bloc honored by the same name. The voters' psychology will hardly change over the next six months, and we may expect people in Russia to vote in line with the same principle. The elections have shown yet another thing: Thirty percent is, perhaps, the maximum that Communists of all stripes can hope to muster. They cannot hope for more unless they cease to be what they are.

Moscow Election Results Announced

LD1912204695

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 2000 GMT on 19 December broadcasts an announcer-read report which contrasts nationwide election results with Moscow election results, and shows a graph reflecting the percentage of the votes cast, as follows:

Our Home is Russia	19.1 percent
Yabloko	14.9 percent
CPRF	14.8 percent
Democratic Choice of Russia	11.4 percent
Congress of Russian Communities	5.0 percent
Liberal Democratic Party of Russia	2.5 percent
Women of Russia	2.5 percent

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The announcer says that analysts will soon explain to us what is behind this choice — a different level of satiety, or a different level of political awareness.

Ingushetia: 61% Vote; 'Russia Is Our Home' in Lead

LD1912222495 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1826 GMT 19 Dec 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ruslan Maysigov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Nazran, 19 Dec — According to preliminary data, 61 percent of the electorate in Ingushetia took part in the elections for the Russian State Duma, Batyr Talgiyev, chairman of the Ingush central electoral commission, told the ITAR-TASS correspondent today.

Russia Is Our Home [NDR] is in the lead here with 30 percent of the votes. The Muslim public movement, Nur, is a little way behind with 29 percent. Ivan Rybkin's bloc received 5.5 percent, and they are followed by the Russian Communist Party, Women of Russia, and the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia with between 3 and 4 percent.

According to the preliminary data, 61 percent of the electorate voted for the 33-year-old vice president of the LUKoil oil company, Mukharbek Aushev, in the elections for the single mandate Ingush constituency.

Election Guidelines

Derzhava Accuses Electoral Commission of Vote Rigging

LD1912175295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1621 GMT 19 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Dec 19 (Interfax) - The Derzhava election bloc headed by Aleksandr Rutskoy accused the Central Electoral Commission Tuesday of having falsified the results of the elections to the Russian State Duma. In a statement sent to Interfax Derzhava called for an emergency Duma session to create a parliamentary commission to check the correctness of the vote count.

The statement's authors claim that they have information of falsified results of voting for the federal lists of the Communist Party, Congress of Russian Communities (KRO), Stanislav Govorukhin's bloc, Derzhava and the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR]. According to the statement, Communists got 25.9 percent of votes, KRO — 9.3 percent, Govorukhin's bloc - 7.4 percent, Derzhava - 9.4 percent and LDPR - 29 percent.

The Our Home Is Russia movement, Yabloko and Russia's Democratic Choice got 2.65 percent, 3.7 percent and 1.35 percent of votes respectively, reads the statement.

"If no measures against falsifiers are taken now, we will witness large-scale cheating of Russia's peoples again at the presidential elections," reads the Derzhava statement.

Ryabov Cited on Technical Problems in Counting Votes

MM1912133395 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 19 Dec 95 p 1

[Report by Lyubov Tsukanova: "Central Electoral Commission"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The high voter turnout in some places led to waiting lines at polling places and even hiccups in the voting process, because the citizens' interest in the elections had been underestimated and an insufficient number of ballot papers had been delivered in Voronezh and Leningrad Oblasts, and there was a shortage of ballot boxes in many polling places. We bear the responsibility for all these shortcomings, [Central Electoral Commission Chairman] Nikolay Ryabov said, and we will deal with them; but, he added, it is more pleasant than annoying that the plans based on low expectations were disrupted. Some of the joyful feelings of the chairman of the Central Electoral Commission came the mass media's way; he thanked them for their "restraint, tolerance, and objectivity."

However, this praise did not ease the pressure, and the members of the Central Electoral Commission, announcing the results as they were summed up every two hours, had to justify what the press considered to be the slowness of the automated system and the vacillations in the percentages of the electoral preferences, which were incomprehensible without special commentaries. In actual fact, representatives of the Central Electoral Commission assured us, the system was working normally, and the fact that the calculation of the votes was slower than one would have liked could be attributed to the reduced number of staffers (as compared with 1993) in the electoral commissions and purely technical difficulties in counting because of the large number of electoral associations and one-seat candidates taking part in the elections, as well as the parallel elections and referendums in a number of Russian Federation components: Governors were being elected in some places, mayors in others, and extra elections to local legislative organs had been scheduled in still other places.

As Yuriy Vedeneyev, member of the Central Electoral Commission, told your ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI correspondent, the "Elections" automated state system is not

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being applied in its entirety in the election campaign, but its separate elements are being applied. By the time of the presidential elections, the system will be functioning at full capacity and in real time. At the moment, however, there is a mixed system in operation. District commissions are working on the results from first-past-the-post districts, while the Central Electoral Commission is working on the federal party lists. The final results will be ready two to three weeks after election day.

Commentary

Zyuganov: Election First Step to 'Patriot' as President

LD2012113095 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1044 GMT 20 Dec 95

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 20 Dec — The communists' success in the parliamentary elections is part of a campaign "whose ultimate aim is to bring into power a president who is also a patriot," Gennadiy Zyuganov, the leader of the Russian Federation Communist Party, stated today.

The main thing is what the communists plan to do in the Duma — the problem of price and tax increases. "Priority for domestic producers needs to be guaranteed," he noted, "a package of laws directed at reinforcing the safety of the population also needs to be adopted."

Gennadiy Zyuganov also considers that the Communist Party must continue denouncing the Belvezhskaya agreements [setting up the CIS]. As far as this matter is concerned, he said, it is necessary for "everything to be brought in line with the wishes of the population of the USSR which were expressed in the referendum of 17 March 1991."

Zyuganov Interviewed on Election Results

MM1912210795 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Dec 95 p 1

[Interview with Gennadiy Zyuganov, chairman of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation Central Committee, by Viktor Trushkov; date, place not given: "No Time for Breathing Space"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Trushkov] Gennadiy Andreyevich, the preliminary results of the Duma elections that have taken place in my view provide grounds for talking of a moral and political victory for the communists, bearing in mind that the authorities and the democratic press have been vigorously whipping up anticommunism. What is your assessment of the disposition of political forces in the second State Duma?

[Zyuganov] I would rather not talk of victory; there can be no winners in a crippled, destroyed, torn apart, impoverished, humiliated country.

As regards the disposition of forces, an initial analysis of them allows several conclusions to be drawn. First, voters decided to rectify the ruinous situation in the country by responding to the call to vote. The exceptionally high turnout of the people in all regions testifies to citizens' sense of responsibility. The attempt to avert a crisis through the ballot-box is a protest against those who wantto rectify the situation in society to their advantage by means of tanks and assault rifles,.

Second, voters point-blank refused to support radical reformers like Gaydar: Two years ago he was being talked of as an election winner, but now the problem of clearing the 5-percent threshold looms large for him. In two years he has lost his entire faction and is now gradually turning into a man with no fixed political abode. He is now being helped into the Duma. At 0200 hours on Monday [18 December] all Central Electoral Commission data was closed down and attempts are apparently being made to scrape the 5 percent together for him by hook or by crook.

Third, objectively what took place was a referendum on confidence in the government, in which it obtained only one out of every 10 votes. This is a demonstration of a lack of confidence, after which it must recognize that it cannot continue to pursue its previous policies.

This is what also pleased and even surprised me. Forty-three associations, a big sheet of paper, but people did not notice the plethora of names, they did not err in their choice, sensing instinctively who has betrayed them, who has sold them out, who is robbing them blind, and who is helping them. They chose associations which are well known to them, while the rest more often than not obtained 0.1-0.2 percent of the vote.

We believe that our tactics, worked out in summer and designed for a one-year period, that is to say, for the presidential election, justified themselves: With a minimum of expenditure we made a fairly strong impact. In all major regions we first doubled the number of votes obtained by the party and, second, got our candidates in as deputies. In the federation-wide electoral area the CPRF [Communist Party of the Russian Federation] got one in four of its candidates in, and almost one in three in single-seat districts.

True, we are now nagged by the doubt that somebody might "pull a fast one." Filatov even went to the election center Monday. Such lack of propriety and impudence

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are staggering: He snuck into the presidium and started questioning the election committee's data. Who do you think you are? An ordinary official, albeit the leader of the presidential apparatus, who has no formal relationship with the Central Electoral Commission. You can sit down in the hall with everybody else, discuss the results with your neighbors, share your personal comments with them.... But after his "visit" the publication of the voting results was suspended.

[Trushkov] Who in the new Duma do you regard as potential allies?

[Zyuganov] We are setting ourselves the task of creating a broad coalition of popular patriotic forces. A considerable group of deputies from the Agrarian Party of Russia and the "Power to the People!" bloc were successful in single-seat districts. There are single-seat deputies from among the trade unions and commodity producers with whom normal cooperation is also possible. But I state bluntly: We are open to dialogue with all those who understand that a policy is needed under which it would be beneficial to work and to study normally instead of getting drunk and going thieving.

[Trushkov] The presidential election is scheduled for the summer. Can we rely on the fact that the trend regarding the increasing popularity of left-wing forces and the CPRF, which emerged at the time of the last Federal Assembly elections, will persist and manifest itself in six months' time?

[Zyuganov] I think so. But it will persist only provided that people can see that those whom they have elected are thinking about their everyday needs, are seeing to the passing of laws, and making their lives easier. What currently pains most Russians is crippling prices, criminal anarchy — almost everybody is living behind bars, they have driven themselves behind them — and mass unemployment, whereby whole towns are being turned into economic disaster zones. Voters will see that we are carrying out their orders, we are protecting their interests — they will increase their support for us. Therefore there is no time for a breathing space.

On the other hand it is clear to everybody that our current percentages are insufficient for victory. Therefore we must constantly meet with people and tell them straight that the situation in a country in which the authorities shot up parliament can change substantially only when a patriot is elected president. Failing that any Duma, even if is 100-percent communist, has extremely limited scope under the current Constitution. But what is required of it is that it lays down laws which the popular patriotic forces will need for a future emergency stabilization of the situation in the country.

I would even go so far as to say that the popular patriotic bloc should nominate not only the president but also simultaneously the premier and leading government members.

[Trushkov] In my articles I proposed that this be done back at the last stage of the Duma election campaign.

[Zyuganov] We discussed it. But there were some snags here. To be honest, the opposition had an excess of presidential, prime ministerial, and ministerial candidates.... But now that the disposition of forces can be seen these questions will be easier to solve.

[Trushkov] Let us return to the election results. You said that they should convince the current executive branch of the impossibility of continuing the economic, social, and political policies it is pursuing. But is it capable of pursuing any other policies?

[Zyuganov] The wording of the question is realistic. But in any government team there are people who can see further and better understand society's problems.

We must try to put the state apparatus in conditions where it is under control. Take these elections. Let's say a local administration is required by its bosses in the capital to "correct" the results. But there were observers from the party at the elections, they have copies of the voting records.... And the law envisages criminal liability for infringements. It will not be hard to catch somebody in the act, and after this there will be no protection from any high-ranking chief. As a result we have a chance to reduce infringements when the voting results are being summarized, that is to say infringements against officials' honest behavior.

[Trushkov] Incidentally, what about the massaging of voting figures. Do you not think that now this could start to be done ostentatiously, in front of everybody, so as to provide grounds for casting doubt on the election results?

[Zyuganov] This is one of many options: first of all to instigate the maximum number of ostentatious infringements, and then to act as...defenders of the Constitution, custodians of democracy's purity.

[Trushkov] What is your attitude toward press conjectures that the announcement of the presidential election date is a case of playing political games as well?

[Zyuganov] In my opinion many people like playing — from a little girl who dreams of winning a million and "experts" to exchange dealers. But those sitting in the Kremlin are playing politics.... Judge for yourselves. There are 2,000 people in the Kremlin. Could they really not elaborate a doctrine for Russia's national and state development?!

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[Trushkov] No, they could not.

[Zyuganov] They did not want to.

[Trushkov] They could not! Not because of a shortage of intellectual potential but for other — well-known — reasons.

[Zyuganov] Yes, they would rather bring the country to its knees.... After all, these days everybody is tormented by the Kremlin authorities. The Army, the Federal Security Service, the police, Special-Purpose Police Detachments.... They are suffering no less than others: These days the man with a gun often finds himself without food and a uniform.

[Trushkov] Now the party will start preparing for the presidential election without a breathing space. In the current extraordinary situation might an extraordinary CPRF congress be convened?

[Zyuganov] In any case a conference is at least inevitable. Only a congress or conference can adopt decisions concerning the party's participation in the presidential election. Of course, this must be a very efficient and constructive consideration of specific questions — on presidential power, our candidate, and allies and fellow-travelers....

Zyuganov Reveals Communist Party Campaign Spending

LD1912203095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1915 GMT 19 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Dec 19 (Interfax) — The Communist Party spent 1.3 billion rubles on its election campaign, though it did not spend anything on gathering signatures in support of its candidates, Communist leader Gennadiy Zyuganov told a news conference in Moscow Tuesday. He described the spending "as minimal under circumstances of an information blockade of the Communist Party."

Speaking about the main sources of funds, he said that party members had "agreed to pay membership fees for three months in advance" and "renounced costly programs" including television advertising, publication of bright posters, etc. "Even the Communist Party's leaflet was printed on usual newsprint, which turned out to be useful as it was much more difficult to tear it off than those printed on hard paper," said Zyuganov.

"Under our election slogan reading 'Minimum spending - maximum efficiency,' we made direct work with voters the cornerstone of our campaign," stressed Zyuganov. He believes that such an approach was justified as 14 million voters cast their ballots for the Communists and it turned out that the party has "at least 14 million more sympathizers."

Yavlinskiy Calls For Democracy Coalition for Next Election

LD1912151795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 19 Dec 12 58 GMT 19 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Dec 19 (Interfax) — Leader of the Yabloko movement Grigoriy Yavlinskiy has called for setting up a coalition of pro-democracy supporters in the run up to next year's presidential poll.

Democratic forces must form the broadest alliance possible to prevent the establishment of a totalitarian regime in the country, he told reporters in Moscow on Tuesday.

He maintained that apart from the Communist party, no one considers President Boris Yeltsin to be among pro-democracy supporters any longer.

Yavlinskiy said that after the Sunday elections, the president "will drift towards pro-communist forces taking steps for rapprochement with them."

Asked about possible coordination with Our Home faction, he said it would largely depend on whether or not its leader Viktor Chernomyrdin holds on to his parliamentary seat. If not, he said, the faction which is a quasi-government will go up in smoke.

That Our Home should win 9 percent of the vote was an indication of the number of bureaucrats in the country who together with their family members backed up the Chernomyrdin-led bloc, he said.

Yavlinskiy: Chechen Resolution Depends on New President

LD1912183495 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 19 Dec 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, leader of the Yabloko bloc, is the author of a number of economic programs and prescriptions, and it is therefore natural that he should have devoted a considerable proportion of his speech to criticizing the policies pursued by the government, including in the area of privatization. He demanded that export industries should be supported.

However, the main issue around which coalition is, in principle, possible, is the Chechen question, according to the Yabloko leader. Laws should be passed on this and decisions should be swift.

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[Begin Yavlinskiy recording] People who have shown their complete incompetence in the process of settling the Chechen crisis should be removed from the negotiationg process. In actual fact, the final resolution of the Chechen crisis is, of course, bound up with electing a new president. [end recording]

Lukin Views Russian Parliamentary Elections

MS1812163895 London BBC Television Network in English 0700 GMT 18 Dec 95

[Interview with Vladimir Lukin, Chairman Russian Foreign Affairs committee, and leading member of the Reform Yabloko Party, by Juliet Morris, in Moscow; from the "Breakfast News" program — live]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Morris] At this stage there seems to be a clear rejection of reforms, which is something that your party stands for?

[Lukin] No I would not say so, it is not rejection of reform, it is a rejection of social negligence.

[Morris] But if the Communists are doing very well at this stage, and they continue to do so, that surely must be a rejection of reform?

[Lukin] Well it is reaction on the Governmental policy to neglect the social — elementary social desires of the people in time of reform. How would the British electorate react if your government failed to pay salaries in time, failed to pay pensions in time. It is quite natural and I'm surprised that results are so positive under the circumstances.

[Morris] Yet surely, Mr Lukin, no one party can make the transition from 70 years of communism into a democracy and market economy. Now I know your party says you could do it without the pain, without the crisis, but it's impossible, isn't it?

[Lukin] No I don't say so. What we are saying is that it is possible to do better, to be more attentive to common people, [word indistinct] people. It is better — it is possible to reshuffle the budget from one things to other things, from an effective spending money to social work.

[Morris] Mr Lukin should the west worry about the communists?

[Lukin] It is a big question for everybody, and for me, and strangely for communists themselves. They did not decide what to do with their victory and there are factions in communism who would really like to work within the new framework — political framework, and there are those who would like come back to the past, and there is no final decision on this question.

[Morris] Very briefly, you have been tipped as a possible successor to Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, if President Yeltsin asked you, would you do the job?

[Lukin] It depends on many circumstances. I don't want to become — I never will become a puppet figure for making some other foreign policy, but if it would be necessary to become a part of general big coalition of democratic forces, to withstand this negative trend, of course everybody, and myself included, will correspond this responsibility.

Communists Set To 'Teach Us All Another Lesson'

MM2012115295 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Dec 95 p 2

[Article by Stanislav Oganyan: "Communists Will Not Let Us Down!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At around 0400 hours I was sitting in front of the television waiting for some results. My wait seemed to be justified. The commissioning of the Federal Information Center equipped with the latest word in technology on the very eve of the elections generated hopes that the information on the voting would be presented not only visually (on a huge screen) but also promptly. This brought a host of journalists there ready at virtually every minute to tell us about the changes in voter sympathies and antipathies.

But all of them — and we viewers too — were once again misled. The picture on the gigantic map of Russia remained virtually unchanged at 2300 hours and 0400 hours. The performance given by the information center was extremely reminiscent of the muddle of two years ago when greeting the new political year.

Naturally the Communists were the only people who liked the fixed picture.

I am writing this at midday on Monday [18 December] and there is still no serious news from the information center, but the tendency for the Communists to take the lead will certainly persist. Therefore it is high time that we congratulated the Communists and asked them: Do not let us down. If history and an exhausted people have given you another chance to rule the roost, do not miss it. Show everyone that you have forgotten none of what the country has experienced and teach us all another lesson.

The kind of lesson that will ensure that none of us is ever tempted again to cast their eyes on your alluring slogans. Take away everything from people that they have earned over the last few years. Naturally it should be taken away in accordance with the well-known rules — plunder what has been plundered. Take from the

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rich and give to the poor. Bring the economy back to the fold of centralized planning. Temporarily introduce press censorship. Immediately introduce a system of distribution and product orders and dramatically limit vodka sales — otherwise the people celebrating your victory might indeed take to drink.

But, importantly, give people back the luxury of human contact! Where else you can have such a hearty, leisurely chat apart from in a long line waiting for longed-for cheap sausage. Especially since with your coming to power all meetings, processions, and demonstrations will be banned — who will oppose their familiar, beloved party? Only a lunatic, and he will naturally be sent to a funny farm; let him sound off there. Reaffirm in people's minds the idea that there is only one ("this") party; others have no right to exist owing to their obvious corruption. Leave one main newspaper and its local subsidiaries, switch on the jamming devices, revive political interrogations, primary party organizations, the Komsomol and Octobrists, post guards on the Mausoleum, and once again blow up the Church of Christ the Savior.

I am in a hurry to congratulate the Communists. I believe, Comrades, that you will not let us down!

Moscow Scholars Cited on Leftists Winning Elections

MK1912125695 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 19 Dec 95 p 1

[Report by Vladimir Pokrovskiy: "'Left Explosion' Through the Eyes of Scholars"]

[FBIS Translated Text] While more and more fresh voting statistics were still coming in from the Central Electoral Commission, we were already calling up Moscow scholars to learn first, preliminary but deeply scientific reactions to the red triumph.

The first who did not decline to answer was Dr. Viktor Finn, a sociologist from the All-Russia Institute of Science and Technology Information. He is rather surprised at Zhirinovskiy's impressive victory. "According to my expectations," he says, "the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia was not going to win more than 8 or 10 percent. I do not understand completely yet the reasons for such a popularity of Vladimir Volfovich [Zhirinovskiy], but I believe I underestimated the degree of political maturity of a certain part of our society."

The sociologist attributes the victory of red forces to the fragmentation of the democrats and the appearance on the political horizon of centrist associations. He cites the well-known claim of the philosopher Sir Karl Popper that a two-party system is the most stable of all.

Andrey Fonotov, deputy minister of science, sees the reason for the defeat of the policy pursued by Yeltsin and Chernomyrdin in their total disregard for the sphere of social problems. If this is going to be the case in the future, he thinks, the confidence in the president will sink further. Unless the president immediately declares social problems priority number one, he will certainly be out of his office next June. Therefore, the deputy minister thinks, one should expect "some corrections in the state social policy."

In that event, science and education may get some benefits.

'Contradictory' Character of Communist Party Program

MM1912133195 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 19 Dec 95 p 1

[Article by Dmitriy Babich: "Brezhnev Would Have Left Zyuganov To Rot in the Camps. Notes in the Margin of the Victors' Election Program"]

[FBIS Translated Text] So the Communists won the elections. The question "why" is not as important as the question of what will ensue and who they actually are — the "Zyuganovites." Nikita Sergeyevich Khrushchev or Iosif Vissarionovich Stalin, having carefully read through the Communist Party's election platform, would certainly have had Zyuganov shot. The thing is that this program is very contradictory and gives the Communists practically unlimited freedom to "maneuver." It talks, for example, about "using destatization and nationalization of the means of production as two very important economic levers, just to strengthen the country's might." The very word "destatization" was unknown to the Communists who advocated building communism by 1980. Everything around them was the people's, everything around them was theirs.... Orthodox Leninists would not have forgiven Zyuganov for his talk about a "mixed" economy. There was only one way for them — our own, Soviet way.

Although the program does promise to "annul privatization deals that circumvent federal legislation, that are contrary to the interests of the country and working people's rights." We do not know, though, who will decide what was in working people's interests and what was not. The Communists are hardly going to say that the property of "Red millionaire" Semago harms the "interests of working people." But the property of Gazprom is another matter.

The Communists intend to "restore the people's control of the activities of enterprises, irrespective of the form of ownership, and commercial structures, banks, and other

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credit and financial institutions." It is unclear, though, what kind of "people's control" this is — "commissars in dusty helmets," "citizen financial inspector," or a mob smashing store windows? And what if the banks did not want someone to control them on behalf of the people?

Further on, the program talks about "annulling the Belovezhskaya Forest agreements." But it does not explain what would follow them. You cannot return to 1991 with a single flourish of the pen. So here too Zyuganov has many options — from trying to herd everyone into the USSR by force of arms to empty declarations.

But the Communists are very well aware that under the current Constitution practically all power in the country belongs to the president and they will not be able to accomplish any of the things they have promised in the next six months. Therefore, for them these elections are merely a dress rehearsal for the presidential elections, at which they intend to present, together with a "people's patriotic bloc," a single candidate. So there should be no fear of a split until June 1996. While there is nothing really to do, there are no real disputes.

The Communists have passed the opposition test. They have succeeded in playing on nostalgia for the old days and on criticism of the current authorities' actions. It will be much more difficult to pass the power test.

Legislative Poll Stirs Concerns, Fears

LD1812174095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1703 GMT 18 Dec 95

[By Tamara Zamyatina]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, December 18 (Itar-Tass) — A 65-per cent turnout at the December 17 legislative elections showed that people are displeased with the government's policy, while, on the other hand, they fear a change of power in the country.

At the same time, the results of elections indicate, even though vote counting is still in progress, that there is no danger of termination of reform by a new Duma.

The results reflect the population's mood. Those who disagree with the current policy supported communist leader Gennadiy Zyuganov and ultranationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy. As a result, the Communist Party received 22 per cent and the Liberal Democratic Party 11 per cent.

Those who oppose a change of power voted for Our Home is Russia (NDR) of Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, Yabloko of Grigoriy Yavlinskiy and Russia's Democratic Choice/United Democrats. Thus, the democrats have received a total of more than 23 per cent: NDR about 10 per cent, Yabloko about eight per cent and Yegor Gaydar's bloc about five per cent.

However, the results of voting in single-mandate constituencies may change the balance of power in the future Duma.

Former Duma Security Committee Chairman Viktor Ilyukhin who ran from the Communist Party in a one-seat constituency in the Penza region received 55.5 per cent.

In Omsk, the winners were deputy Sergey Baburin (Power to People!) and independent candidate Oleg Smolin who beat Mikhail Poltoranin, chairman of the Committee for Information and the Press in the former Duma.

Former Russian Prosecutor General Valentin Stepankov is in the lead in the Perm region. An independent candidate Vladimir Lopatin, a former Soviet deputy, won in the Vologda region.

As of 18:00 Moscow time, 67 candidates had won in single-mandate constituencies, including former deputy Duma Chairman Artur Chilingarov, retired general Albert Makashov, former Duma deputy Sergey Shakhray, former Duma deputy Pavel Bunich and economist Galina Starovoytiva.

Thus, none of the political parties has received an absolute majority in the lower house of parliament, which means that there is no immediate threat to the policy of reform in Russia.

However, the lesson for the government and liberal forces in general is obvious: if reformers continue to ignore the social needs of low-income groups of the population and delay the payment of salaries for months, the critical mass of public discontent may destroy the hopes of democratic forces for a civilised future for Russia in half a year by the time of presidential elections scheduled for June 16.

Like at the previous elections, liberal forces received support in major cities, mainly in Moscow and St. Petersburg which have a more educated electorate, a more wealthier population and are better supplied than the Far North and rural areas. This confirms a simple truth: in order to make people think in a more progressive way the government needs not to make declarations, but to improve the quality of life across the country.

Since analysts project elections to the State Duma onto the upcoming presidential elections, it is possible to judge what strategies will compete from January to June 1996.

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Half a year is not a long time. According to information provided by the president's circles, he intends to focus on social problems. Zyuganov will criticise the present regime, while Yavlinskiy will seek to make alterations and adjustments in the programme of reform.

Democrat Divisions Suggest Yeltsin Candidacy

MM2012105695 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Dec 95 p 2

[Article by Valeriy Vyzhutovich: "Russia's Communist Choice-Disunited Democrats"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It seems to be only the magnanimity that comes over the winner in the hour of his triumph that is preventing Gennadiy Zyuganov from being profuse in the expression of sarcastic thanks to his political opponents. Otherwise the leader of the CPRF [Communist Party of the Russian Federation] would now have delivered to us roughly the following speech: "Gentlemen democrats! Your contribution to the Communists' victory in the elections to the State Duma can hardly be exaggerated. You did everything to ensure, at last, the formation in the lower chamber of parliament of a faction of the left-wing majority, henceforth to be called 'Russia's Communist Choice-Disunited Democrats.'"

The seasonal quarrels among our democratic leaders, who know how to break off relations on the eve of major political campaigns, astound few people now: This is commonplace.

"I can only regard Yavlinskiy's refusal to cooperate with us as a betrayal," Gaydar declared at the start of the election campaign. "It is a grave stab in the back for democratic forces." Yavlinskiy calmly replied: "There is no tragedy in the democrats' being split."

Of course not, in general. What tragedy? Konstantin Borovoy, Vladimir Lysenko, Irina Khakamada, and the two Fedorovs — Boris and Svyatoslav — have all once again ensured their personal top placing by getting into the Duma. But there has been a crushing defeat in the team event. The blocs and parties being led by these leaders toward a goal that is known to be unattainable (a fact of which the leaders themselves have taken sober cognizance, otherwise they would not have sought personal political conviction in single-seat districts) have not even come close to the 5-percent threshold. Maybe, if God so grants, only Gaydar's "Russia's Democratic Choice-United Democrats" bloc will reach the cherished mark.

Preliminary result: Of the parties and associations of a liberal orientation, only Yavlinskiy's "Yabloko" has assuredly gotten established in the new Duma, having picked up over 8 percent. All the other votes cast for the democrats have been scattered to the wind.

But the democratic forces' fragmented nature explains little in the outcome of these elections. Because it needs to be explained itself.

The absence of a precise, consistent position on key political and economic issues, the contradictory nature of the election programs — this is the first and most important thing that prevented the democrats from uniting. Yegor Gaydar, for example, categorically condemns the war in Chechnya, but at the same time he declares broad support for the Russian executive. Boris Fedorov, on the contrary, justifies the war in Chechnya but mercilessly criticizes the government's economic course.

What fits in with what here? Who can agree with whom about what?

"How can I unite with Gaydar," Boris Fedorov said in a postelection interview for IZVESTIYA, "if he votes for the budget and the government? What do I have in common with Kovalev if he sees Basayev as Robin Hood? Another three shares-for-loans auctions, and I too will vote for the Communists. I have no intention of uniting with thieves."

A few days before the elections Yelena Bonner urged Borovoy, Khakamada, and Pamfilova to disregard political differences and unite to achieve the tactical goal of keeping the Communists and national patriots out of power. She proposed that they rally beneath the banners of Gaydar and Yavlinskiy before it was too late. But it is not all as simple as that. It is not the leaders of parties and blocs who decide whether or not to unite with someone. It is "second-echelon" figures, who are unknown to anyone but, for all that, are certainly no less vainglorious, who have their weighty say here. Send one or two famous politicians into the general fray, while voluntarily leaving the game themselves? What! Here mention will be made of the 200,000 signatures which, so it turns out, were collected in vain and of the many hundredweights of posters, leaflets, and appeals run off. Finally, the most terrible thing is the anger of the sponsors, who poured hundreds of thousands of dollars into promoting a movement of which not even the name remains.

"I suggested to Gaydar the creation of a coalition of united democrats," I was told by Konstantin Borovoy, whose Economic Freedom Party will be represented in the Duma only by its leader. "This question was discussed in July and August. But the All-Russia Center for the Study of Public Opinion promised Yegor Timurovich 7 percent.... I also approached Svyatoslav

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Fedorov. But he assured me that he would get 6 percent...."

But notions of achieving success by arithmetic addition of "democratic" votes are also entirely starry-eyed. Would Yavlinskiy have gotten his 8-plus percent in union with Gaydar, over whom hangs quite mass condemnation for the "shock therapy," devalued savings, and the widely despised privatization? Would Gaydar have achieved approximately 5 percent or would he have gotten less if he had been in the company of Yavlinskiy, who is rejected by the radical democratic public for criticizing the present reform methods and the whole government course?

Let us abandon illusions. There are no grounds for hoping that by the time of the presidential election the Russian democrats, having learned the lessons of their defeats, will link arms and nominate a single candidate. "I cannot see this at present," Boris Fedorov told IZVESTIYA in an interview.

Of course, the leader of the "Forward, Russia!" movement is being overmodest. This would probably also be the reply now of Yavlinskiy, Gaydar, Borovoy, Svyatoslav Fedorov.... But, knowing the ambitions of our progressives [progressisty], it is possible to assume that each of them has already said to himself: If not me, then who?

Under conditions of full-blown political time pressure, where there is just half a year, no more, until we vote for a new Russian president, the search for a figure capable of consolidating the democratic part of society will be agonizing to the point of desperation. The threat of a communist restoration — real or artificially inflated — and disorder and vacillation among reforming politicians could leave Russia with no choice other than the one it made 12 June 1991. Boris Yeltsin has promised to report in February how he himself views such a prospect.

Election Impact on Duma Functioning Viewed

MM2012101895 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 20 Dec 95 p 1

[Article by Lyubov Tsukanov: "What Can Prevent 'Drastic Steps' by New Duma"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The thrust of many if not the majority of pre-election speeches and primarily the speeches of the opposition came down to criticism of the government's activity. The phenomenon of election propaganda in general consists in the fact that the electoral associations seeking seats in parliament are not so much describing what they intend to do in the Duma and what laws they will develop and adopt as promising to change the government's policy — whether in the economic, social, or foreign policy sphere. This indirectly confirms the real strength of the executive branch and the nostalgia of parliamentarians both past and future for the complete dependence and controllability which characterized it in Soviet times. In reality the Constitution offers very powerful protection to the independence of the executive branch (which in the transitional period guarantees the consistency of socioeconomic transformations) but of course the State Duma has levers for influencing the government's course and the most powerful and realistic of these levers are the approval of the state budget and the possibility of passing a vote of no confidence in the cabinet, which in theory could lead to the government's resignation.

For all the stormy and hostile relations between the lower chamber of the first convocation and Chernomyrdin's government, the constructive nature of these relations is hard to dispute: In recent weeks through its activity the State Duma has done everything to adopt the state budget, by which it in fact confirmed its confidence in the government. And the parliamentarians were hardly guided solely by a sense of duty ("we cannot leave the country without a budget") but rather it is a confirmation of the fact that, in gathering experience of collaboration in the sphere of the country's management, the authorities are gradually (and perhaps through coercion) transferring to a regime of cooperation. (In that sense one can regret that the life span of the first State Duma was so brief — it is not out of the question that over the course of four years we might very well have built a sensible and productive scheme for collaboration between the parliament and government). The new Duma has to set up new relations with Viktor Chernomyrdin's cabinet. What will they be like? Perhaps that is the second important question which society is asking itself today (the first still remains the question of the disposition of political forces to which as yet there is no final answer). Since it is already obvious that the opposition will be more consolidated (because of the reduction in the number of political factions) then it is entirely feasible to expect the new Duma to take drastic steps with regard to the government although that will be not only and not so much a political step as a propaganda step on the threshold of the presidential elections. To attempt in the first months of next year to "pull the chair" from under Chernomyrdin means primarily testing Boris Yeltsin's strength and perhaps thus influencing his decision as to whether or not to run for a second term as president.

Of course the president is counting up all possible scenarios for his collaboration with the new Duma and

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it is by no means fortuitous that, anticipating events, he has confirmed his intention to continue to work with Viktor Chernomyrdin. The premier's statement that he "does not intend to resign" also looks logical. Indeed, the constitution does not require this: The government surrenders its power to the newly elected president, not the new Duma. Boris Yeltsin's reluctance to give in to the way the political winds are blowing is also confirmed by the hope he voiced on election day that "the new State Duma will be in the mood for work and not for politics mongering and will be able to preserve and improve the relations which have been set up with the president and the government." The president is prepared to go halfway in this cooperation, allowing the possibility of reshuffles within the cabinet. But all the experience of collaboration between the president and parliament shows that Boris Yeltsin will never give in to crude pressure: The Duma has not once succeeded in forcing him to make a particular cadre decision only because that is what the parliamentarians wanted.

Most likely the president, as has happened in the past, will anticipate the Duma, making cadre changes after a thorough analysis of the disposition of forces in the lower chamber. It is possible that this will remove the trump cards from many deputies who are "after the ministers' blood" and from the outset will divert parliamentarians' interest from the battle they want and toward the acquisition of an understanding of the rudiments of lawmaking activity.

Gaydar Warns Reforms Not 'Irreversible'

BR1912145295 Paris LE FIGARO in French 19 Dec 95 p 4

[Interview with former Russian Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar and leader of Russia's Democratic Choice, by Irina de Chikoff in Moscow; date not given: "Gaydar: 'The Reforms Are Not Irreversible' — The Former Democratic Prime Minister Believes That the Success of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation Holds the Greatest Possible Threat"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [de Chikoff] In your opinion what dangers does the victory by the Communist Party of the Russian Federation [CPRF] in the general election represent?

[Gaydar] There is a dangerous illusion spreading through the West, namely that the reforms in Russia are irreversible. But as an architect of these reforms I can assure you that everything could be turned around again in a very simple scenario. The Communists, should they regain full power, will have to live up to their electoral promises. They maintained that they would help the Army, industry, agriculture, science, education, the far North, pensioners, and so on.

In order to subsidize these sectors they will have no alternative but to boost the money supply. The population will seek refuge in safe currencies, namely foreign currencies. To make up for this, the Communists will have to introduce a fixed rate of exchange. Immediately, Western goods will become rare and prices will skyrocket. In their attempts to contain them, the Communists will plunge into the spiral of shortages and we will again see ration cards, empty shops, and queues.

From Red to Brown

[de Chikoff] Speaking at the invitation of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, CPRF leader Gennadiy Zyuganov made a good impression on U.S. businessmen. Was he just acting?

[Gaydar] I believe in deeds, not words. I heard the speech held by Gennadiy Zyuganov in the United States in the presence of President Clinton. He could not have put on a more democratic show. But I repeat, even if the Communists did not want to destroy everything they cannot help but slide down the slope I have described. In central Europe the Communists have moved toward becoming social democrats, while in Russia the collapse of the Soviet empire essentially gave a free rein to nationalistic sentiments. Our Communist party did not turn from red into pink, but into brown.

[de Chikoff] Would you go so far as to envision forms of repression and the reopening of the gulag?

[Gaydar] I am not ruling it out. If the Communists have a chance of implementing their programs, in six months we will find ourselves back in the same general deficit situation that we were in back in 1990. In order to ensure that the unhappiness of the population is not reflected outward the authorities will control the press, leading to the inevitable arrests. Guilty parties will have to be identified. Remember the consequences of the New Economic Policy.

[de Chikoff] Does the saying not go that history never repeats itself?

[Gaydar] We must not expect a carbon copy of the past. The Communists will not be able to stay in power for long. But once more it is the Russian people who will have to foot the bill. There is a not inconsiderable risk of a genuine revolt. If the Russian people, driven to the brink of despair, had to lift themselves up again, then they would sweep away everything in their path, and it is not democracy that would end up winning the day. Revolutions only lead to tyranny.

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[de Chikoff] How can so many Russians feel nostalgic about the years of iron rule?

[Gaydar] They have forgotten everything. Or rather they no longer believe in the reality of Communist apartments, rationing, censorship, and repression. They only remember a welfare state which, even though it only assured the people a mediocre existence, guaranteed them job security, provided free education, and paid their salaries and pensions.

[de Chikoff] Are you not playing the prophet of doom?

[Gaydar] If the CPRF was a party bent on reform that had come round to the idea of private property, the principles of a market economy, and respect for the freedom of the press, I would attach no importance whatsoever to the results of the elections. But it takes great naivety to mix up the Russian Communist Party with the reform-minded communists in Eastern Europe. The rise of the CPRF will be the rise of a party of war and destruction.

People's Choice Must Be Respected, Even If Unpalatable

MM1912104995 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Dec 95 p 1

[Article by Albert Plutnik: "Is This Kind of Democracy Not What We Need?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Although all the mass media without exception are stressing that only a small percentage of the vote has yet been counted, individual commentators, grasping the predominant trend, so to speak, are already drawing far-reaching conclusions. One political scientist, assessing the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] victory in the Koryak Autonomous Okrug, openly abused on live television what he sees as the completely illogically political leanings of the reindeer breeders and hunters.

The wrong people are electing the wrong people, giving preference to the wrong people. This point is increasingly conspicuous in assessments of the as yet still preliminary results of the elections. It is as if the people are disappointing some politicians' best expectations. They expected more of the people, you understand. Namely a conscious choice, whereas the people are not voting automatically for their most loyal sons, that is for the politicians in question, but for for those who are unscrupulously exploiting their trust. Just look at what's happening, comes the historical expostulation recast in political terms: This is the kind of democracy we do not need.

So what is to be done? We have already changed the leading establishment [nachalstvo], it only remains to change the people. But to be serious, such grievous sufferings conceal the absolute unsuitability of many, many people to live or exist not in some artificially created — narrow party or narrow (or broad) group — environment but in what is the natural habitat for the majority of the population of Russia. This includes the actual conditions of a life full of social problems, crime statistics, and, finally, the unprecedented war against one of our own territories. This alone is sufficient to ensure that bewilderment at the preliminary results of the elections does not look like a completely natural reaction on the part of those who today hold or yesterday held the helm of government of the country and those who are not in overt opposition to the president and the government. And not, in any event, to pin the blame for what is happening on the mindless masses, who have been entrusted with such a super-weapon of mass destruction as democracy.

To be honest, the payment exacted for the objective miscalculations and subjective mistakes is not to be explained in terms of black ingratitude on the part of the people. Nor should we pretend for the sake of future happier preliminary and final success ratings that democracy is a reality only when it is "in our favor" rather than in the favor of "our" political opponents; that in the latter case it is illusory. If the big cities have different political tastes than, say, the above-mentioned national okrug, if the proportion of those whom it is accepted practice to describe as politically literate people is higher in the center than in outlying areas this in no way means that the one man, one vote principle should be disregarded. Or that this occasion should be used to conduct a kind of survey or assessment of human potential, giving some people the right to vote for five people on the basis of the results of this investigation while depriving others of the right to vote altogether because of limited wisdom and insufficient erudition. In all instances we must respect the choice made by the people. Not an invented people, not the ideal people created by the imagination of even their best minds. But the natural and inimitable people which has always existed and still does. A people who have not known a well-provided and affluent life throughout the centuries of Russian history and under a succession of innumerable dictatorships and dictators have not learned to independently decided a great many things in their own fate. It is only now that they are starting to learn things. And those to whom they have given their preference today should be congratulated on their success.

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Claims of Army Support for NDR 'Political Speculation'

MM1912165395 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 19 Dec 95 p 2

["Own Information" commentary under the general heading "The Army Voted at the Command: 'At Ease!'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] From a Central Electoral Commission announcement: "Of the 40,000 Russian Federation Defense Ministry and Internal Affairs Ministry Internal Forces servicemen serving in Chechnya, 76 percent voted for the 'Russia Is Our Home' [NDR] bloc. Some 3.3 percent voted for the CPRF [Communist Party of the Russian Federation], 1.3 percent for the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia], 1.6 percent for the KRO [Congress of Russian Communities], and 0.8 percent for 'Yabloko'.... Of the 600 Russian citizens who voted at the military base in Cam Ranh (Vietnam) 74 percent opted for the NDR..." (The Russian Federation Defense Ministry Main Educational Work Directorate provided the Central Electoral Commission with the data).

According to information from the Russian Federation Defense Ministry, as many as three structures were given charge of the elections in the Armed Forces: the Main Educational Work Directorate, headed by Lieutenant General Sergey Zdorikov; a General Staff operations group under the command of Colonel General Anatoliy Bogdanov, and the Military Policy Directorate (Lieutenant General Gennadiy Ivanov). To all appearances, the aforementioned military commanders had committed to memory their minister's parting words at a conference of leading Defense Ministry personnel to the effect that "your future fate will depend on the results of the elections." Grachev set his subordinates a very clear task when he loudly promised the premier every support from the Army and Navy for his glorious bloc. But how do you secure this support when the military are still in a pitiful financial state despite Chernomyrdin's sworn assurances, there are still no purchases of new military equipment and armaments, combat training is steadily declining, and the housing crisis is getting worse? But the fate of specific generals is at stake, so their reports of an unexpected show of mass love on the part of officers and men for the NDR (in some units and formations more than 70 percent allegedly voted for the premier's supporters) were wishful thinking, to put it mildly. The amusing thing is that the announcements of the results of the vote in some units got into the press in record time and in terms of the speed with which they were counted could be a contender for the Guinness Book of Records. Zdorikov's directorate excelled itself: It was champing at the bit to announce the long-awaited results almost before the actual vote.

But the question remains: How can you know the results of the vote in the Armed Forces when only 2 percent of the polling stations there have closed (in units and subunits of the Strategic Missile Forces, Military Space Forces, Main Intelligence Directorate, and Air Defense Forces)? According to officers in the military department central apparatus, some people in Defense Ministry hallways guffawed yesterday morning when they heard about the buoyant reports by Zdorikov and his subordinates; others saw it as blatant manipulation of public opinion. On the other hand, according to sources in the Defense Ministry, by dinner time secret information had started coming in from military sociologists working at a number of polling stations, indicating that in most units and formations of the Russian Federation armed forces the top places were firmly shared by the CPRF and LDPR. "By and large the Army voted the same way as the bulk of the Russian people, and all attempts by military officials to persuade the president and the premier to the contrary are sheer political speculation," one senior General Staff officer said. And this is very likely true.

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ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 20 Dec

LD2012075895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0721 GMT 20 Dec 95

["Press Review" — ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, December 20 (Itar-Tass) — Today's Russian newspapers concentrate on the results and lessons of the December 17 elections to the State Duma (Russian parliament lower house). What prevented democrats from uniting before the election campaign?

This question is discussed by the IZVESTIYA newspaper in an article headlined "Russia's communist choice — disunited democrats". The daily sees the main reason not in personal ambitions of democratic leaders at the State Duma but in the fact that they had no "clear-cut and consistent position on key political and economic issues" and that their election platforms differed.

In the newspaper's opinion, there are no grounds to hope that Russian democrats, learning the lessons of defeats, will pool their efforts and nominate a single candidate for the presidential elections in 1996.

Speaking in an interview with the PRAVDA newspaper, Communist Party leader Gennadiy Zyuganov said: "We are for a broad coalition of people's patriotic forces".

He did not preclude a possibility of cooperating with a considerable group of deputies from the Agrarian Party of Russia, the Power to the People bloc as well as with one-seat deputies nominated by trade unions and manufacturers.

"We are open for a dialogue with all who understand that we need a course under which it is advantageous to work and to study normally and not to drink hard and steal," Zyuganov stressed.

He expressed hope that the trend for growth in popularity of left-wing forces and of the Communist Party will also remain at the 1996 presidential elections. Zyuganov called "a desire to put the state apparatus under control" among the main tasks of the Communist Party group at the legislature.

The ROSSIYSKIE VESTI newspaper notes that the Communist Party and its leader succeeded in winning no more but a moral victory. "The success, apart from splitting Communists, may unite their opponents," the newspaper expresses opinion.

The U.S. Administration treated calmly the results of the Russian elections. Therefore, the U.S. policy towards Russia should remain the same, U.S. Ambassador to Russia Thomas Pickering said in an interview with IZVESTIYA.

Director of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service (FIS) Yevgeniy Primakov described new tasks of his service in an interview with the KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper on the eve of the 75th anniversary of the service.

He singled out efforts to prevent territorial disintegration of Russia and assistance for integration trends over the territory of the former Soviet Union with simultaneous preservation of sovereignty of all states forming the Commonwealth of Independent States among the new tasks.

The FIS sees its other task in opposing a desire by some countries to possess nuclear weapons and other means of mass destruction as well as in ensuring Russia's economic security and frustrating threats of merging Russian organised crime and the foreign Mafia.

IZVESTIYA describes activities by some Islamic extremist organisations in Russia. Islamic fundamentalists, including notorious Gaydar Dzhemal, set the aim of "putting a new ideology into the mouth of Russians".

According to the newspaper, Dzhemal established contacts with very influential people in Russian corridors of power, since his ideas of Islamisation of Russia get support from the powers that be in the Russian Federation. Dzhemal started his activities in the Memory movement.

A feature in the army newspaper KRASNAYA ZVEZDA deals with efforts by the Russian Defence Ministry, the prosecutor's office and the Interior Ministry to step up struggle against draft dodgers to the Russian armed forces.

Agenda of 19 Jan CIS Summit Previewed

WS2012092595 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0813 GMT 20 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to the preliminarily agenda of the next sitting of the CIS Council of State Heads, the leaders of the CIS member States are expected to consider about 20 items concerning the most topical problems in the Commonwealth. As was reported earlier, the sitting is to take place on January 19, 1996. According to information received from the press-office of the Minsk-based CIS Headquarters, CIS Executive Secretary Ivan Karatchenya holds that all items of the agenda can be divided into two groups. The first group includes documents which are ready for signing and, in experts' opinion, do not require additional discussions at top level. Among such documents Mr Karatchenya named draft Agreements regulating the activities of the Collective peace-keeping in the CIS, a draft Agreement on the training and education of

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military and civil personnel for participation in peacekeeping operations, and protocols to some documents which were signed earlier — the Agreement on Social and Legal Guarantees for Military Servicemen, Persons who Left Military Service and Members of their Families, and the Convention on Legal Aid in Civil, Family and Criminal Cases dated from January 22, 1993.

The second group contains problems as regards which the Presidents should come to terms to make a decision. In particular, they are to diacuss the course and prospects of the formation of the CIS Customs Alliance in view of the decision of the governments of Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan to join it. In Mr Karatchenya's opinion, the CIS countries' leaders should work out common approaches to the problem of prevention and settlement of conflicts on the territory of the Commonwealth, to determine upon attitudes towards the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict, the idea of prolongation of the CIS collective peace-keeping forces' stay in Tajikistan and the stabilisation of the situation at the Afghan-Tajik border. In addition, the Presidents will consider an appeal by the Council on cultural cooperation, the draft Convention on the simplified procedure of the acquisition of citizenship by the CIS Countries' citizens, the draft Agreement on cooperation on border issues and a number of other documents.

The majority of the documents subject to consideration by the Presidents are to be discussed by the CIS Council of Foreign Ministers and Defence Ministers before January 19.

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Moscow Hails UN Resolution on Bosnia

LD1912192695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1905 GMT 19 Dec 95

[By Valeriy Sevryukov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, December 19 (ITAR-TASS) — The U.N. Security Council's resolution of the implementation of the Dayton accords is the green light to the peace operation of the multinational force for Bosnia, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigoriy Karasin said at a briefing today.

He praised the resolution's attention to both military and civil aspects of the peace operation in Bosnia.

Importantly, the multinational force now deploying in Bosnia has been entitled to the amount of peace policing to which the parties to the conflict and leaders of Balkan states have consented, Karasin said.

Also of great importance to Russia is the fact that with one year of peacekeeping in Bosnia elapsed, it is up to the Security Council, not any regional organisation to decide on the extension of it, Karasin added.

Russia hailed the resolution's emphasis on return of refugees and displaced people to their homes as a crucial requirement for durable peace in the region.

Karasin said Russia had reiterated its advocacy of the lifting of the sanctions against the former Yugoslavia.

He quoted the Russian delegation to the Security Council as calling for abolition of the sanctions against both Belgrade and Bosnia's Serb republic.

This would surely help the implementation of the Dayton accords, he said.

Karasin said it is time readmission of the former Yugoslavia to the U.N., OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] and ECOSOC [Economic and Social Council] was considered.

Russia is well aware that the Security Council's resolution on Bosnia only opens the peace process, Karasin said, adding that progress towards peace now depends on responsibility of the parties to the conflict and of the international community.

Russia Supports Lifting Some Sanctions

LD1912180095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1621 GMT 19 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Dec 19 (INTERFAX) — Russia supports the ultimate lifting of sanctions from both Yugoslavia and Republika Srpska (Serbian Bosnia), Russian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Grigoriy Karasin told a briefing in Moscow Tuesday.

According to Karasin, "a completely new situation" emerged after the Dayton peace deal was signed. "Resolution 1022 by the U.N. Security Council has played its positive role," he added. "However, today such a situation cannot satisfy anyone," he said.

"It is time to agree on Yugoslavia's return to the U.N. General Assembly, ECOSOC and OSCE," Karasin stressed.

Embassy Sources Cited on Pickering Remark

MM1912171295 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Dec 95 p 3

[Report by Leonid Mlechin: "U.S. Embassy in Moscow Fears Vendetta and Hopes Russia's Policy Will Not Change Radically"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As the workday in Moscow is ending, officials in Washington are waking and demanding the latest news from Russia.

Throughout recent days the U.S. Embassy in Moscow has been constantly producing, enciphering, and sending to Washington statistics, assessments, and forecasts to ensure that people over there realize the changes that lie in store for Russia after the Duma elections.

"What recommendations are you making to your government today," I asked Thomas Pickering, the U.S. ambassador to Russia.

"I believe that on the whole our policy toward Russia should remain the same. I do not think the elections will lead to fundamental, revolutionary changes. It is simply that the sympathies of a certain number of voters are switching from Zhirinovskiy to Zyuganov. And we realize why this is happening. But we know that it is the president's prerogative to determine foreign policy," the ambassador said, speaking lightly and cheerfully, smiling, and radiating optimism and confidence.

The U.S. Embassy also hopes that two unpleasant affairs that have overshadowed bilateral relations will be forgotten after the elections and will not develop into a vendetta. One is connected with the publication in NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA of an article by Embassy First Secretary Thomas Graham (see IZVESTIYA No. 225). The other is over the interview that Ambassador Pickering himself gave in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk (see IZVESTIYA No. 236).

With uncharacteristic bluntness for a diplomat the first secretary divided the Russian political world into clans and pulled no punches in his descriptions of certain well-known politicians. And the ambassador told journalists in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk that, in the U.S. Government's opinion, the four Kuril islands to which

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Japan is laying claim do in fact belong to Japan and therefore it would be imprudent for foreign investors to invest in local projects.

Not only the Russian press but also Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev expressed perplexity and dissatisfaction. There were even rumors that not only First Secretary Graham but also the ambassador himself would quite shortly leave Moscow.

But in reality, as we used to say, we confined ourselves to discussions. Nobody said anything to Ambassador Pickering himself. And he does not feel that the attitude toward him in Moscow has changed.

The U.S. minister-counselor for political affairs (Pickering's first deputy) was summoned to the Russian Foreign Ministry for explanations. And in response the U.S. State Department reprimanded the Russian Embassy in Washington over harsh anti-American statements.

"Will the article business affect Mr. Graham's diplomatic career?"

"No," three high-ranking U.S. Embassy staffers firmly told me.

"When is Mr. Graham planning to leave Moscow?"

My interlocutors exchanged glances:

"Not for a while yet. He came for three years, and barely half the tour is over."

They explained that the Moscow office of the Carnegie Endowment, a respected academic institution, invited First Secretary Graham to take part in a seminar and express his personal opinion regarding trends in Russian politics. Graham received permission from the ambassador and the State Department. Admittedly, the embassy did not want the text of his speech to appear in the newspaper before the elections, but that was not its choice....

And how come Ambassador Pickering caused such dissatisfaction with his statement about ownership of the four Kuril islands? Some diplomats permit themselves certain liberties, but Ambassador Pickering, who has been in the diplomatic service since 1959, is clearly not among them. He began as an aide to Henry Kissinger himself and has been ambassador in several countries and the U.S. representative in the United Nations.

Many people, including me, have always found him more cautious and careful in his choice of words than his predecessors John Matlock, the darling of Moscow intellectuals, and Robert Strauss, who switched to diplomatic work from party work — he formerly headed the Democratic Party in the United States.

"You know five foreign languages. What progress are you making with Russian?" I asked Thomas Pickering.

"Not very much as yet."

"Is Russian really harder than Arabic, Swahili, and Hebrew, which you speak?" I asked in surprise.

"Russian is very difficult," the ambassador confessed.

"But surely it is probably even harder to understand our life, even if you look at pure politics alone, if you don't know the language?"

"I read a huge number of articles from your press translated into English, including information received from the 'RUSSIKA-IZVESTIYA' firm. My staffers tell me a great deal. I don't have all that many friends in Russia, but I have quite a few acquaintances. Finally, I try to travel around Russia. On average I spend one week in four on the road. This enables me to understand what is happening outside Moscow."

This was how Thomas Pickering found himself eventually in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, the main city on the island of Sakhalin.

When he visits the Russian provinces he never misses an opportunity to hold a press conference. In Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk an ITAR-TASS correspondent asked Thomas Pickering what the ambassador thinks about the territorial dispute and the prospect for investments in the disputed islands.

Pickering replied that this is not a problem of Russian-U.S. relations, but since he had been asked, the U.S. Government's position from the outset, that is, since the fifties, has been that the islands belong to Japan and should be returned to it in the course of talks. The answer to the question about investments is also clear from this.

Anyhow, the ambassador could have avoided this incident. Diplomats are perfectly able to avoid answering questions. Unless the embassy had decided in advance that, whatever the reaction, American diplomats would say whatever they thought necessary.

"The ambassador had no choice," they explained to me at length. "He has to exploit any opportunity to publicly set out his government's view. If he had remained silent, it would have signified a change in U.S. Government policy, and that is beyond his competence."

"But this remark by the ambassador evoked such a sharp reaction in Russia that it probably harmed bilateral relations. It is scarcely part of an ambassador's duties to spoil relations."

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"We think that at another time this affair would not have been blown up," I was told. "It was exploited as an opportunity to proclaim anti-Americanism during the election campaign."

"Why say something that intensifies anti-American feeling during an election campaign?"

"We cannot tailor our policy to the requirements of election campaigns in other countries. Incidentally, the U.S. own election campaign is also approaching. We do not expect Russia to change its policy to suit our election campaign...."

"But relations between our countries are very good, despite certain disagreements," Ambassador Pickering told me as he said good-bye.

Rocket Engine Producers' 'Fight' Benefits U.S.

MM2012090095 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Dec 95 p 3

[Report by Gennadiy Obolenskiy: "Military-Industrial Complex Giants Start 'Fighting.' The Winner Is Already Known — the Americans"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The arms trade, military-technical cooperation, and simply international scientific and technical cooperation in the sphere of advanced technologies — this is not only the business of specific enterprises and firms in our country but also a most important element in the state's foreign economic activity as a whole. Unfortunately this simple truth is constantly being forgotten by us, which is evidenced by a large number of negative examples. Let us dwell on one of them.

As already noted in the press, the United States considerably lags behind the highest technical level of rocket engine construction set in Soviet times. For example, it is 20-30 years behind in the sphere of oxygen-kerosene rocket engines. This is at a time when the need for these very engines is constantly increasing.

In these conditions the Lockheed-Martin corporation, which builds next-generation [perspektivnyy] space vehicle launchers, was forced to appeal for the services of Russian organizations through U.S. engine construction firms, which in this case must be regarded as mediators. An appropriate tender was organized.

The famous U.S. engine construction firm Pratt and Whitney decided, through the "Energomash" science and production association, to develop, manufacture, and equip future U.S. launchers with RD-180 engines based on the existing Russian series-produced engines. The contract is very beneficial to Russia: It makes it possible to preserve the scientific and production capacity in our rocket industry, which is on the verge of disappearing. The value of the contract, looking ahead to the future, totals many hundreds of millions of dollars.

Pratt and Whitney's competitor — Aerojet, another U.S. engine construction firm — has also decided to resort to Russian aid. It has chosen as its base the NK-33 oxygen-kerosene engines manufactured 25 years ago at Kuybyshev (this enterprise is now called the Samara Engines joint-stock company), which at the time were designed to implement the Soviet moon exploration program. This program was shut down long ago, the entire material element including the engines was paid for out of the state budget, and these engines were kept at a depot. Their production at the Samara plant was completely wound up. In this context the proposed contract has an extremely limited effect in terms of duration (until the existing 50-70 engines have been used up, and not all the engines could be suitable) and in terms of cost (the enterprise will at best obtain no more than a few tens of millions of dollars). Although, of course, the actual idea of the contract merits support: The joint-stock company plans to use the funds obtained to develop a most important program — to develop the latest aeroengine for Russian airbuses.

As a result the two Russian military-industrial complex giants have started a "fight" in the U.S. market. Moreover, it is being conducted with the Russian Federation Government's consent and with the passive observation of innumerable interdepartmental commissions which have been set up to elaborate the most rational recommendations in the sphere of international cooperation. But the "fight" is damaging both our organizations: The Americans are knocking down prices and during this competition are gaining access to our know-how, and will ultimately conclude a contract that is most beneficial to itself and not to us.

At the same time everything could be different: Because the Americans will not be able to do without Russian enterprises when tackling this problem in the next few years. Bearing this in mind, with the state's help our own rules of the game could have been imposed, proposing an action plan which is most beneficial to Russia and assisting the Russian organization which could have been left out in the cold as a result of this activity. Can the State Committee for the Defense Sectors of Industry, which oversees the Samara Engines joint-stock company, the Russian Space Agency, to which the "Energomash" scientific production association belongs, and the numerous committees really not agree among themselves on the basis of state interests?!

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Su-27 Crash: Sabotage 'Cannot Be Ruled Out'

MM1912141195 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Dec 95 p 7

[Article by Vladimir Klimov: "Who Sent Our Pilots to Their Death"]

[FBIS Translated Text] There are many strange or, to be more precise, insidious secrets behind the tragedy that struck our Su-27's in the skies of Vietnam. Will the Defense Ministry commission be able to uncover them?

Russian technology at the "Lima-95" international air show in Malaysia can be said without any exaggeration to have been hugely successful. Visitors to the exhibition paid particular attention to our helicopters and aircraft.

When the Malaysian head of state attended the exhibition he only stayed a short while at the U.S. stands although they looked far more impressive than their Russian counterparts. The paramount ruler of Malaysia was interested not in glitz but in the essential nature of what was on exhibit. And that meant our two Mi-26 and Ka-50 helicopters and the Su-27 fighters.

The two generals at the controls of the helicopters that day did things in the sky that seemed beyond the helicopters. When the generals landed the air force deputy commander in chief ran up to them and waved his fist threateningly:

"I will discharge you from the Air Force. Heavens, you could have smashed up the machines."

This was said in the heat of the moment because the deputy commander in chief knew perfectly well the kind of aces that were piloting the helicopters. Nor did he have any doubts about the Su-27 pilots. They were all members of the "Russkiye Vityazi" crack aerobatics squad from Kubinka in Moscow Oblast. The most complex of aerobatics were nothing out of the ordinary for them. Thus our fighters also showed the Malaysian head of state that Russia has no equals in the skies.

The display lasted two and a half hours. Those watching the dogfight did not merely confine themselves to sighs of delight. Immediately after the display businessmen visited Russia's representatives. I will make no unqualified claims, but people in the know say that several highly advantageous contracts were signed for our state.

This wonderful day came to an end. Night fell. It was a very dark night. None of our people expected foul play because the word "competition" has only just entered our minds let alone our hearts and blood. Therefore our technical people were very surprised to see all the inspection covers — even the most secret ones — open when they went to their combat vehicles in the morning. In both the helicopters and the aircraft. The airfield was guarded by Malaysians, but they naturally did not notice anyone stealing up to the Russian warplanes.

That day was also due to see a display, but the deputy commander in chief banned the hardware from taking to the skies. Only the Mi-26 flew 15 meters above the ground, demonstrating that it was nonetheless able to fly.

Then came the return home and this tragedy in the skies of Vietnam. Three Su-27's crashed before reaching the military airfield at Cam Ranh.

How? Why? The answer to these questions may lie in the inspection covers that were opened at the Malaysian airfield because objective monitoring systems [sredstva obyektivnogo kontrolya] recorded three flashes. These flashes could have occurred not just on collision with a mountain but also as the result of an on-board explosion or during ejection.

I have no intention of claiming that the loss of our aircraft is the result of sabotage. However, that cannot be entirely ruled out.

I spent a long time unsuccessfully questioning an officer at the Air Force press center as to how four aces had suddenly run into a mountain. They were pilots of too high a class to operate on autopilot. They had an on-board computer, radar, and altimeter. A host of instruments, which simply should have prevented the tragic crash. So, someone sent them into the mountains, gave them the wrong landing coordinates. Who?

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA wrote that Major General of Aviation V. Grebennikov in the lead Il-76 lost contact with the three wingmen on his right. But contact was maintained with the two others? That is strange.

I was told by the Air Force Press Center:

"Did you hear Commander in Chief Deynekin's statement during the 'Vremya' program? He told you everything. The commission at work there will investigate."

I heard Deynekin but he failed to say anything on the main point: who sent the S-27's into the mountains. According to unofficial data, it was his deputy on board the Il-76. It was he who gave the wrong coordinates for the landing corridor. Two fighters did not obey his order, they veered to the side, and remained intact. They landed at an airfield in the city of Fanrang [name as transliterated]. But three trusted their commander....

I cannot fail to mention the two versions of events — the official and unofficial. According to the official version, the Vietnamese authorities immediately began to keenly help us to find the aircraft wreckage and establish the

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cause of the crash. Their aid was negligible because visibility was zero owing to a typhoon and extremely heavy rains. A Vietnamese Mi-8 was unable to take off.

According to the unofficial version, the Vietnamese were indignant that the Russian aircraft were flying to the military airfield without their permission. The pilots of the two surviving aircraft were arrested. The Russian ambassador has received a good ticking-off.

All these versions are flying around among people selling our combat hardware and working with it. Yet we ordinary viewers and listeners do not know whom to believe and whether to believe anyone at all. Because if they are not lying, they are not precisely telling the truth. Previously they hid the truth from the enemy. Now whom are they hiding it from?

Incidentally, the incident involving the three Russian Su-27 fighters near Vietnam's Cam Ranh naval base "will not affect sales of this aircraft in the region." That was the opinion of Robert Karniol [name as transliterated], regional editor of JANE'S DEFENSE WEEKLY.

Our newspaper has an interesting writer, St. Petersburg Professor Aleksandr Sinyakov. He attributes many of the disasters on our sinful earth to one thing — local geophysical resonance. He says that space did all this. But you cannot file charges against space. Why has the Air Force not yet taken his theory on board? It is surprising.

Gromov: Crimean Facilities To Remain at BSF Disposal

WS2012114495 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0219 GMT 20 Dec 95

[By Oleh Poltavskiy, "Special to INTELNEWS"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sevastopol, Dec. 19 — Sevastopol facilities will remain at the disposal of the Russian Black Sea Fleet [BSF], according to a telegram from Russian Federation Adm. Feliks Gromov to the Black Sea Fleet command.

The telegram outlines Russia's position on use of facilities in the Crimean port as well as "some others" outside the port vital to maintaining the fleet, and consequently vital to Russian national security.

The full text of the telegram was published in the paper of Black Sea Fleet "Flag Rodiny" of Dec. 19.

At the same time, Gromov states in the telegram that with respect to current the transitional period provided by the 1993 Yalta agreement, "Russia will not initiate any unilateral actions to change the current situation of the Black Sea Fleet, if Ukraine doesn't take any actions aimed at de-stabilizing the situation."

The telegram goes on to state that the draft agreement on the status and conditions of the Russian Federation BSF presence in the territory of Ukraine "practically is agreed to at the level of state delegations." Russian officials plan to sign the agreement in the general parcel of agreements on BSF problem, according to the telegram.

Regarding the status of Russian BSF in the territory of Ukraine, the telegram states Russia maintains that "all military formations will realize their activity in the accordance with the legislation of Russian Federation." Maintenance, forming crew, financing and other issues will be effected by Russia, the telegram states.

As far as property of individual members of military formations of the Russian BSF or their families within the facilities, they have the right to compensation for the real estate, and also the right to move it out of Ukraine or to sell it.

Personnel of Russian Federation BSF and members of their families living within the facilities have equal rights with the citizens of Ukraine to study in educational establishments and to get elementary, secondary and higher professional education, to be accepted in children's establishments and other kinds of social service, the telegram states.

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Political Issues

Chernomyrdin Congratulates Winners in Federation Council

LD1912160195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1540 GMT 19 Dec 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]MOSCOW, December 19 — The crucial importance of Russia's latest elections lies in that the legislative power for the first time in Russia has been taken over by a new parliament through a democratic procedure, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said today.

Chernomyrdin addressed the Federation Council, or the upper house, today at the start of its debate on the draft 1996 budget which has been through the State Duma.

He congratulated Federation Council members who ran and were elected in regional gubernatorial elections which were held on Sunday together with the legislative ones.

Chernomyrdin called on the upper house to approve the State Duma-passed draft budget, stressing that it is "the result of joint work of the government, the State Duma and the Federation Council".

Zyuganov Says West Should Give Up 'Bloc' Thinking

LD1912171095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1621 GMT 19 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Dec 19 (Interfax) — The leader of the Communist Party of Russia (KPRF), Gennadiy Zyuganov, suggested foreign leaders drop bloc thinking. According to preliminary elections results, the KPRF is leading at the parliamentary elections in Russia.

"Bloc" thinking has already resulted in piling up "uncountable arsenals of weapons," Zyuganov told a press conference in Moscow Tuesday. "The planet will not endure another lap of the arms race," he stated.

"A much more effective" way of developing interstate relations is a "mechanism of security and cooperation in Europe" rather than piling up military potential, he added.

Zyuganov also suggested the leaders of the newly independent Baltic states, "where my compatriots account for 30 to 40 percent of the population, should not be in a hurry" to join any military and political institutions. They had better ensure the rights of the ethnic Russians there. Otherwise, Russia "will have to ensure them according to international norms," he stressed.

Zyuganov criticized the foreign policy pursued by Andrey Kozyrev and Boris Yeltsin. The result is that Russia has not a single ally, which has not occurred for the last 300 years. The foreign policy as well as the government's economic policy must be changed, he stated.

At the same time, he asked journalists "not to scare anyone with anything" with regard to the KPRF position. Zyuganov said his party is interested in "the peaceful resolution of all pressing issues and in the country's civilized development."

Zyuganov 'Ready for Constructive Dialogue With Everyone'

BR1912145395 Rome L'UNITA in Italian 19 Dec 95 p 4

[Interview with Gennadiy Zyuganov, leader of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, by Maddalena tulanti in Moscow on 18 December: "'A Stop to Shock Reforms' — Zyuganov Calls for the Government's Head" — first paragraph is L'UNITA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] "L'UNITA? I will be pleased to talk to L'UNITA, but we do not have much time. Our first press conference since the election is in half an hour." We said we would make do, and then attend the press conference, OK? "OK."

[Tulanti] Why did you win?

[Zyuganov] Because we did a good job. We fought a good election campaign, because we worked on both the presidential and parliamentary elections. Above all, we set out to train for next June, and I must say that we did it well. We doubled our capabilities everywhere, our organization, our structures, our information facilities, and our analysis centers. Our men have gained crucial experience for the next fixture, operating strictly within the limits of the law, and we fought the campaign at absolutely minimum expense: minimum expense and maximum yield. Not bad, eh? And lastly, we got through to the farthest-flung places in Russia, "plowing" every region so firmly and massively that communist shoots will break through, in the near future at least if not at once.

[Tulanti] What will you do now?

[Zyuganov] First of all, get some sleep. Then we will convene the party presidium to establish our position, after which we will hold consultations with our potential allies. Then we will draw up our strategy and establish our tactics, and we will debate them at the party conference. Then the battle will commence.

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[Tulanti] Who are your allies?

[Zyuganov] The doors are open to all. When all the votes have been counted, we will see. We are ready for constructive dialogue with everyone, without prejudice. There are three conditions: We will talk to everyone who abides by the law and wants peace within our country's borders, with those who do not advocate giving up territory and tearing Russia to pieces even further, and with those who want to live in a house owned by all, not just by some. [Zyuganov ends]

At that point Zyuganov rose and said with a smile, "That is all. Now I have to get ready for the others." [passage omitted]

Zhirinovskiy Foresees No Change in Executive

LD1912145395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1316 GMT 19 Dec 95

[By Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, December 19 (Itar-Tass) — Last Sunday's elections to the State Duma will in no way affect the activity of the executive, according to Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the Liberal-Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR].

"Two or three ministers will probably be replaced but that would change nothing," Zhirinovskiy told a press conference here today.

The LDPR leader said his party's next congress will be held on January 10 next year "to formally nominate a candidate for the office of the President of Russia."

Zhirinovskiy said the Liberal Democrats would begin their election campaign from March.

As concerns the Liberal-Democratic group in the State Duma, Zhirinovskiy said it would be prepared to cooperate with all supporters of the house decisions aimed at "strengthening the state, the national economy and democracy."

According to preliminary data, the Liberal-Democratic Party won 10.9 percent of votes in the Sunday elections.

Chernomyrdin Rules Out Leadership Reshuffle

LD1912171195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1626 GMT 19 Dec 95

[by ITAR-TASS correspondents Gennadiy Yezhov and Igor Zhukov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 19 Dec — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said today that there will be no reshuffle of the leadership of the government following the recent elections to the State Duma.

Answering questions by Itar-Tass correspondents after the plenary session, the prime minister said that he discussed the personnel question earlier today at his traditional meeting with the president of the Russian federation. "However, this was not connected with the results of the State Duma elections which have not yet been finalized," he remarked. "The same question was on our agenda last Tuesday as well."

Touching on the preliminary results of the State Duma elections, Viktor Chernomyrdin said he is satisfied with them, and in particular with the results of the "Russia is Our Home" bloc.

"This was precisely the result we expected", the premier said. "As a result of the voting for Russia is Our Home, which is the government's bloc, the cabinet has received considerable support and we now find it in many ways easier and simpler, when taking political decisions, to go ahead and do successful work".

Asked to comment on Grigoriy Yavlinskiy's statement that third place represents a defeat for the government's bloc, Viktor Chernomyrdin said: "Yavlinskiy would be better off thinking about his own results."

Viktor Chernomyrdin expressed surprise over the fact that, according to him, certain parties and associations, basing themselves on the preliminary results of the elections to the State Duma, are already deciding who will and who will not enter parliament. "In so doing they are not discussing their own future work as lawmakers but are stirring up a personnel issue about the composition of the government," Viktor Chernomyrdin noted.

Intelligence Chief Views Changed Priorities

LD1912203295 Moscow Russian Public Television First Program Network in Russian 1615 GMT 19 Dec 95

[Studio interview with Yevgeniy Primakov, director of Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service, by correspondent Andrey Razbash; from the "The Rush Hour" program — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Razbash] Hello. Tomorrow, Russia's intelligence officers will mark the 75th anniversary of their departments. Today "Rush Hour" welcomes in the studio Yevgeniy Primakov, director of Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service. Hello.

[Primakov] Hello. [passage omitted]

[Razbash] Will you carry out an analysis of the results of elections among your staff? Do you pay attention to this issue?

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[Primakov] You know we do not vet political beliefs either among the staff subordinated to us, nor among our colleagues. Of course, we will do no such thing. Intelligence departments have been depoliticized. Every member of staff can have his beliefs and sympathies, but they must have no influence whatever on his professional work. [passage omitted]

[Razbash] Yevgeniy Maksimovich, with the collapse of the USSR, have the priorities of what used to be known as the first main directorate changed?

[Priamkov] The priorities have undoubtely changed. I can tell you for instance that our department never used to be concerned with the task of preserving Russia's territorial integrity as acutely as we are facing it now. We are not an internal intelligence department after all. We are gathering foreign intelligence. But after all, some external forces wish Russia's disintegration. We need to know their intentions. We must try and neutralize their intentions. This is just one of our directions. I can list many other priorities we are currently pursuing but which we did not have before. For instance, we are now extremely interested in developing centrifugal tendencies on the territory of the former USSR. Not because we want to eradicate the sovereignty conquered by various republics. But while this sovereignty should be preserved, it is necessary to develop some integrational processes in economic and political spheres. Our intelligence department is not only in favor of it but also working in that direction.

Then, take crisis situations. Never before has Europe been covered by crisis areas to that extent. We thought that the Helsinki agreements guaranteed to a maximum the security of boundaries and so on. And now look: there is a crisis in the south. The intelligence department has shown its good sides there, I think. Generally, we are trying to obtain urgent and accurate information, which ideally is documented, and to report it to the supreme political leadership of this country who need that information to adopt political decisions.

[Razbash] Yevgeniy Maksimovich, several times I came across some shocking articles in the press. They described interaction between intelligence departments that have been known to oppose Russia in a fundamental way. For instance, interaction between Russia and the United States, Russia and Great Britain. And this is described as partnership of intelligence departments. Is this true? Does this partnership exist? If it does, what are its aims?

[Primakov] You know, there are common spheres of interest among states. Therefore, certain intelligence departments may also have common spheres of interest. For instance, combating organized crime, international terrorism, the drug mafia, as well as exposing dangers that may exist in hot spots and that may lead to destabilization of the situation in large areas. So, we tend to exchange relevant information. We have such partnerships. They mean interaction — not an alternative to intelligence activities.

[Razbash] I see. Are there any common spheres of interest in the near abroad. I know there are agreements banning intelligence activities of one CIS country against another. How do you obtain information, say, about the security of nuclear sites in Ukraine or Belarus, or about the Baykonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan?

[Primakov] I will tell you unequivocally that if we have such information from some of our sources abroad, we immediately give that information to our Ukrainian or Kazakh partners. But we do not carry out any recruiting activity. Nor do we conduct any active intelligence work there.

[Razbash] I understand that one of your department's priority is the country's security. The Black Sea Fleet, for instance, is probably an essential factor for this country's security in the south. [passage omitted]

[Primakov] We have certain sources in third countries through which we can obtain information. Naturally, we are in the know of the processes developing in the near abroad. But we do not use any specific intelligence methods against those countries. There is a complete ban on it. And we have unanimously agreed that we must not work against one another. [passage omitted]

[Razbash] With the disappearance or rather the defeat of the communist ideology in the USSR, the ideological basis for recruiting fellow-thinkers, people who share the communist ideology, has vanished. So, do people want to work for intelligence because of material considerations?

[Primakov] I think you are wrong there. Even before there was not just an ideological but also a political basis for recruitment. [passage omitted] And this political basis still exists. I do not think many people in the world would now want the United States to be the only power dominating the world and imposing its decisions on everybody.

[Razbash] In other words, a balance of power in the world.

[Primakov] Yes, a balance of power in the world, and the certainty that Russia is a great power and can therefore play a stabilizing role.

[Razbash] So, pardon me asking you, but what is the role of money? Everybody was shocked by the figure

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of two and a half million, when the Ames case was reported. What is the role of material incentives?

[Primakov] Material incentives exist, of course. Many of them have a role to play. But in most cases, I think there are many reasons why people are recruited. I cannot comment on Ames, whom you have mentioned. I cannot comment in any way on his affiliations, I mean his or anybody else's connections with our intelligence department and our intelligence network. This is simply banned by law. But judging by the U.S. press, and judging by Ames's interview, he always stresses that his reasons were not just material, that after meeting Soviet people, after his personal impressions, as he had been here in 1992, he understood that the hostile and aggressively hostile policy of the CIA was wrong. Ames said that this also played a certain role in his decisions.

[Razbash] Why is the budget of the intelligence bodies not published. After all, they exist on the taxpayer's money. They are funded from the state budget. Should not the taxpayer know how his money is spent?

[Primakov] He has the right to know, but he can find this out in various ways: from broad publications, or from the members of parliament he has elected. The State Duma has created various committees. The budget committee, or the subcommittee for intelligence that existed in the State Duma foreign affairs committee can inform him on the subject. [passage omitted]

[Razbash] At the beginning of our conversation you spoke about the forces, without naming them, that are not interested in having stability in our country, about destabilizing factors and centers. In that respect this coincides with the way the communist parties criticize the leadership of this country, which they say, in dancing to the West's tune, has instituted chaos here, as they call it. Tell me, have you noticed in your work examples showing that our top-ranking functionaries, including those working in the state apparatus, are acting under the influence of somebody or something.

[Primakov] As for the state's top leadership, I can tell you firmly that they are patriots, who are, without any doubt, taking the country along the path free of any sustained influence from Western forces. But at the same time, many are compelled to take account of the international situation. And you know, those who divide people into those who want confrontation with the West and those who do not want it are wrong. The division is between those who want to settle into normal relations with our former cold war opponents but to keep these relations on a basis of equality, and those who believe that all methods should be used to move away from the cold war and to enter European society — all methods, even a ride on the shoulders of one Western country or another, following it as it were, is acceptable. That is the situation. [passage omitted]

Military & Nuclear Issues

Progress M-29 Cargo Spacecraft Undocks From Mir Station

LD1912172095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1208 GMT 19 Dec 95

[By Veronika Romanenkova and Viktor Gritsenko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW December 19 (Itar-Tass) — The Progress M-29 cargo spacecraft, which arrived at the orbital station Mir in October, separated from it on Tuesday, setting out on a downward path. On Wednesday night, its place will be filled by the Progress M-30 spacecraft was launched on Monday.

The undocking proceeded in on automatic mode, but the Mir crew — Yuriy Gidzenko, Sergey Avdeyev, and Thomas Reiter — monitored all the operations. The deceleration unit of the Progress M-29 is to be fired at 18:30 Moscow time (15:30 GMT), after which the spacecraft is to enter the dense layers of the atmosphere and turn up. The remaining fragments are to splash down in a pre-calculated area in the Pacific at 19:15.

The Progress M-30 is to dock with the station Mir at 19:30 on Wednesday. It will bring fuel, food, scientific and medical equipment.

Mir Crew Continue 20th Expedition

LD1912220595 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1630 GMT 19 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Flight Control Center, 19 Dec — The crew of the 20th main expedition is continuing its flight on board the Mir orbital complex.

The program of work today included astrophysical, geophysical and technological experiments, medical research and technical servicing of equipment and the on board systems of the station.

According to the results of doctors' examinations, the health and well being of the Russian cosmonauts, Yuliy Gidzenko and Sergey Avdeyev, and the European Space Agency astronaut, Thomas Reiter, are good.

At 12.15 Moscow time [0915 GMT] the Progress M-29 automatic cargo craft was undocked from the Mir manned complex. After braking, the craft entered the dense strata of the atmosphere and ceased to exist.

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Cosmos-2326 Successfully Put Into Orbit

LD2012095595 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0816 GMT 20 Dec 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Gritsenko and Veronika Romanenkova]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Moscow, 20 Dec — The Cosmos-2326 satellite, launched today by the Military Space Forces of the Russian Federation from the Baykonur launch site, has been successfully put into orbit with parameters close to those been planned and comprising: period of revolution 92.7 minutes; orbital inclination 65 degrees; apogee 435 km; and perigee 415 km. An ITAR- TASS correspondent was told this at the Military Space Forces press center. [passage omitted]

Federal Assembly

Federation Council Approves 1996 Budget

LD1912182495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1721 GMT 19 Dec 95

[By Robert Serebrennikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, December 19 (Itar-Tass) — The Russian Federation Council, or the upper house of parliament, approved the 1996 federal budget today.

Despite criticism of the defence and agriculture spending and of the budget's section on veterans, the house has passed the budget for what appears to be the fear that the budget stuck in debates might be employed by the newly elected lower house as a campaigning tool in Russia's presidential election ahead in June.

The 1996 budget projects 435.7 trillion roubles in spending and 347.2 trillion in revenues.

The target budget deficit is 88.5 billion roubles, or 3,85 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP). No money issue is projected for clearing the deficit.

For the first time over recent years, the budget's targets envision an arrested decline of GDP which is set at 2,300 trillion roubles.

Duma Orders Comptroller's Office Investigations

MM2012111995 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Dec 95 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Instructions to Comptroller's Office" — from the "Documents" section]

[FBIS Translated Text] After adopting the federal law "On the Implementation of the Russian Federation State Employment Fund Budget for 1994," the State Duma instructed the Russian Federation Comptroller's Office to conduct a comprehensive review of the State Employment Fund's implementation of its 1994 budget

The State Duma also instructed the Comptroller's Office to conduct comprehensive audits:

— of the use of federal budget funds allocated to Leningrad and Yaroslavl Oblast executive bodies in 1993-1995;
— of the targeted use of federal budget funds allocated for insulin production and procurement by the Maykopskoye Science-and- Production Association of the Center for New Medical and Special Technologies;
— an audit of the targeted use by the Shchelkovskiy branch of the Moscow Interregional Commercial Bank of the centralized financial resources allocated by the federal budget in 1995 for the development of the parish economy and the construction of an old people's home attached to St. Nicholas' Church in the village of Zdekhovo, Shchelkovskiy Rayon, Moscow Oblast.

Regional Affairs

Khasbulatov Warns of Escalation of Chechen Conflict

AU2012111195 Berlin DIE TAGESZEITUNG in German 19 Dec 95 p 3

[Interview with former Russian Parliament President Ruslan Khasbulatov by Barbara Kerneck; place and date not given: "Elections Are No Alternative"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Kerneck] Mr. Khasbulatov, why did you give up your candidacy [for the elections in Chechnya]?

[Khasbulatov] I gave up my candidacy because I saw that there simply were no political, organizational, or psychological conditions for holding elections normally. Now they have war again there; it is ridiculous even to speak of elections.

[Kerneck] Thus, everything is just a farce?

[Khasbulatov] In Groznyy, it was announced that elections were also taking place in other places, even though the people in these areas had no opportunity to vote. According to information that I have obtained, no more than 10 or 11 percent of the population participated in these elections. All other figures are forgeries.

[Kerneck] Did the foreign electoral observers act in a cowardly manner when they gave up their mission before the elections?

[Khasbulatov] I think that they were sensible. In particular, the OECD [as published] observers justified their

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departure by saying that the conditions for holding elections did not exist.

[Kerneck] Will you appeal against the results of these elections?

[Khasbulatov] I have stated right from the start that I do not accept the results and that I demand, above all, negotiations. I think that the elections are dangerous because they are supposed to be the alternative to negotiations. The Government of the Russian Federation decided to have its puppets legitimized by these elections on the ground. As a result, it further splits Chechen society and is moving toward an Afghanization of the conflict.

[Kerneck] What do you suggest?

[Khasbulatov] I demand the immediate resumption of the Russian-Chechen peace negotiations. Otherwise, there is the danger that the conflict will escalate.

1000 Militants Infiltrate Groznyy, Clashes Continue

LD1912152295 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1335 GMT 19 Dec 95

[By Itar-Tass correspondents Sharip Asuyev, Sergey Trofimov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 19 December — In Groznyy, shooting from automatic arms continued throughout the night and up to lunchtime today. A high-ranking official of the government apparatus of the Chechen republic told Itar-Tass that this is related to a sortie carried out by the militants in Kirovo residential area of the Zavodskoy District on the outskirts of the Chechen capital. The press center of the allied group of the Federal troops and the press center of the Ministry of Interior have abstained from commenting, however, they did not deny the reports.

Additional checkpoints have been deployed on all routes leading to the Zavodskoy District. Servicemen who were posted on those allege that about 1000 militants have infiltrated illegally into Groznyy.

Chechnya: Operation To Free Gudermes Underway

LD2012085695 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0800 GMT 20 Dec 95

[From the "Vesti" Newscast; presented by Sergey Dadyko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Now about the situation in Chechnya. The artillery of the federal troops has been shelling militants' positions in Gudermes all night, preparing for an operation to free the town. A representative of the command told our correspondent, Aleksey Zotov, that troops have made no attempts to enter the town, not to endanger the lives of civilians. Our correspondent reported later, quoting unofficial sources, that the operation to free Gudermes has begun.

Helicopters, Federal Reinforcements Arrive in Gudermes

LD2012103095 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 0900 GMT 20 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The operation to free Gudermes of Dudayevite fighters and to break through the blockade in which the Russian soldiers find themselves, has begun. We remind you that the town center was seized by Dudayev's fighters seven days ago.

Today several helicopters flew into the town with reinforcements of federal forces to break the encirclement in which a group of about 150 Russian troops find themselves.

As RIA has learned, 12 wounded men were today evacuated from the building of the railway station in Gudermes which the Dudayevites, in spite of fierce fighting, have just not been able to seize.

There are as yet no precise figures for Russian dead.

However, according to the appraisals of military analysts quoted by Argumenty I Fakty Novosti agency, since the beginning of fighting in Chechnya last year the fighters have lost some 15,000 men dead and wounded.

Economic Issues

Government Decree on Revaluation of Fixed Capital

MM1912144695 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Dec 95 p 5

[Russian Federation Government Decree No. 1148 "On the Revaluation of Fixed Capital," signed by Russian Federation Government Chairman V. Chernomyrdin and dated Moscow, 25 November 1995]

[FBIS Translated Text] In order to create the economic conditions and raise the investment resources for the active renewal of fixed capital the Russian Federation Government decrees that:

1. Commercial and noncommercial organizations (hereinafter referred to as organizations), irrespective of their organizational and legal forms, are to revalue their fixed capital as of 1 January 1996 by means of indexation in order to bring their balance-sheet value into line with existing prices and reproduction conditions.

2. The Russian Federation State Committee for Statistics is to elaborate, and no later than 1 December 1995 is to

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report to federal executive branch organs and publish in the mass media, indexes of the change in the value of fixed capital (according to type and group) in order to determine its replacement value.

3. Revaluation applies to buildings, facilities, transmission devices [peredatochnyye ustroystva], machinery, equipment, transport resources, and other types of fixed capital on the organizations' balance sheet, irrespective of its technical condition (degree of wear), both operating and mothballed and in reserves, stocks, or unfinished constructions. Fixed capital which has been prepared for write-off in view of its physical wear or obsolescence but which has not been registered in write-off documents in the prescribed manner is also subject to revaluation.

4. Organizations are given the right to revalue their fixed capital by directly converting its balance-sheet value in terms of the prices for the relevant types of fixed capital prevailing as of 1 January 1996 and confirmed by documents and expert findings on the said capital's market value.

5. Organizations are to inform the state statistics organs of the results of the revaluation of fixed capital before 15 February 1996.

6. The Russian Federation State Committee for Statistics, on the basis of:

materials on the existence of fixed capital and the change in prices for it in 1995, is to carry out a preliminary statistical revaluation of this capital as of 1 January 1996 and is to send the revaluation results to the Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy and the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance before 10 January 1996;

organizations' accountable figures, is to summarize the results of the revaluation of fixed capital and submit the data obtained to the Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy and the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance no later than 25 May 1996.

7. The results of the revaluation of fixed capital carried out in accordance with this decree are not to be taken into account when calculating organizations' property tax for 1995.

8. The procedure for reflecting the results of the revaluation of fixed capital in accounting and statistical documents is to be prescribed by the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance and the Russian Federation State Committee for Statistics.

[Signed] Russian Federation Government Chairman V. Chernomyrdin

Currency Controls Affecting Imports Tightened

MM2012102795 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Dec 95 p 9

[Report by Vladimir Kucherenko: "Currency Controls: We Have Looked Into Exports, Let Us Look Into Imports Too" — from the "Departmental Supplement" section]

[FBIS Translated Text] The prospects for the development of currency export controls next year were discussed 13 December by the Commission for the Improvement of the System of Payments and Settlements.

The current system of controls, which rests on three "cornerstones" — the Central Bank, the State Customs Committee, and the Federal Service for Currency and Export Controls — has been at work since 1994 following the introduction 1 January last year of a customs and banking system for monitoring exporters' return of hard currency to the country. Success has now been achieved, according to the Finance Ministry, the State Customs Committee, and the Federal Service for Currency and Export Controls. The amount of money not returned roughly halved compared with 1993.

However, this is not the only means for currency to flow abroad, thus depriving the budget of revenue. Controls must now be extended to other escape routes — import operations and foreign economic barter deals.

As of 1 January 1996 checks on the validity of foreign currency payments for imported goods come into force — in accordance with Edict No. 1169 (of 21 November 1995). It is intended to introduce tough penalties for not importing commodities on time or failing to return the money if a deal breaks down within 180 days of the date of payment for the goods.

However, according to the leadership of the Federal Service for Currency and Export Controls, the implementation of these measures harbors problems. First, it is necessary to avoid inflating the cost of imported goods and to organize information backup so that inspectors know of commodity price movements on the world markets. It is intended to do this using the system of Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations official representatives at local level and with the elaboration of a corresponding normative document.

It is planned to enlist independent structures of experts in order to accurately estimate the value of an import (or an export). The Federal Service for Currency and Export Controls has already prepared a draft government decree regulating this appraisal process.

Second, the Federal Service for Currency and Export Controls and the State Customs Committee are demand-

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ing the right to remove funds on demand from the accounts of penalized firms. But this procedure has not been clearly set out and therefore, according to them, a special edict is required.

Lastly, detailed Federal Service for Currency and Export Controls and State Customs Committee instructions regarding controls over the import and export of services are not yet ready. According to the Finance Ministry, the current procedure for winding up corporate entities engaged in foreign trade needs to be changed in order to bar the way to short-lived firms that collapse before their foreign partners have carried out the terms of the contract.

At the same time as tightening up import controls it is intended to establish controls over barter operations. It is generally recognized that there is virtually a complete legal vacuum here. Barter with the countries of the "new abroad" is growing particularly fast, and Russia is losing $1.5 billion in unequal exchange ever year. A whole package of normative documents and substantial changes to the Law "On Currency Controls" are needed to combat this. The State Customs Committee, the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, and the Federal Service for Currency and Export Controls have undertaken to prepare a draft edict on barter within two months. In particular, it is intended to give the State Customs Committee the right to monitor the import section of barter deals.

A third problem has also emerged: relations with those CIS countries with which the Russian Federation has formed the Customs Union. Since, although the Russian system of currency controls is imperfect, our neighbors' system is far worse. There is a shortage of cadres, normative documents in this area not unified, and inspection and customs technology lags behind ours. In this connection an upsurge in unchecked exports and an increase in losses for the Russian economy are forecast.

By and large First Vice Premier A. Chubays, who chaired the session, was extremely unhappy with the way that currency control is organized. In his view, its organs operate in an uncoordinated and sluggish manner, duplicating one another, and the Russian Federation Federal Service for Currency and Export Controls has not been the true coordinator of control policy. A. Chubays considers it necessary to enlist representatives of primarily Belarus, as a member of the Customs Union, in formulating normative documents.

Nonreturn of Revenue, Million Dollars (Groups of Commodities in 1994 and the First 11 Month of 1995)

Crude oil	860.5
Petroleum products	728.3
Nonferrous metals	332.2
Fish, shellfish, caviar	94.9

Withheld revenue 180 days after delivery has been revealed to total $2.2 billion.

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International Affairs

Kuchma, Yeltsin Discuss Relations by Phone

LD1912165195 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1530 GMT 19 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 19 December — Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma and Russian President Boris Yeltsin spoke on the telephone today about the present state and future of the two countries' relations, the Ukrainian president's press service reports.

The two sides expressed satisfaction with the active bilateral relationship in recent months, with a series of meetings held between Ukrainian and Russian heads of government and ministers by prior agreement between Kuchma and Yeltsin. Both presidents praised the results of the talks between their prime ministers, foreign and defense ministers and deputy prime ministers.

Both Kuchma and Yeltsin welcomed a proposal to organize a trilateral meeting of Ukrainian, Russian and U.S. defense ministers on nuclear disarmament.

Favor Talks With U.S.

LD1912201295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1942 GMT 19 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, Dec 19 (Interfax - Ukraine) — During a telephone conversation Tuesday Presidents Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine and Boris Yeltsin of Russia upheld the idea of holding a trilateral meeting on nuclear disarmament among the Ukrainian, Russian and U.S. defense ministers.

Interfax - Ukraine has learned that Pavel Grachev, Valeriy Shmarov and William Perry are scheduled to meet in Pervomaisk (Nikolayev region), the site of the 43rd missile army headquarters, on January 5.

The Ukrainian presidential press office told Interfax-Ukraine that Kuchma and Yeltsin expressed satisfaction at the recent intensification of bilateral relations. The presidents believe that a series of meetings between prime ministers and various ministers contributed to strengthening the cooperation between the two countries.

Kiev Hopes for 'Fruitful Cooperation' With State Duma

LD1912181995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1621 GMT 19 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, Dec 19 (Interfax - Ukraine) — Ukraine "is attentively analyzing" the situation in Russia after the parliamentary December 17 elections, head of the Information Department under Ukraine's Foreign Ministry Yuriy Sergeyev told a briefing in Kiev Tuesday.

Ukraine hopes "for a fruitful cooperation with Russia's executive power and with political forces in the State Duma who understand the need to build further relations with Ukraine on the basis of equality."

The composition of the present participants of elections has not changed greatly compared with the December 1993 elections to the State Duma, "they have changed only their correlation."

"They are balancing on a certain level," Sergeyev said.

Parliament Speaker on Effects of Russian Election

WS2012114695 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0219 GMT 20 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Dec. 19 — Results of the Russian parliamentary elections will not have a "radical" impact on the relations between Russia and Ukraine, according to Ukrainian Parliament Speaker Olexandr Moroz.

Ukrainian-Russian relations "were built on the objective basis, with both countries' interests taken into account," Moroz said on Tuesday. "If there is a new communist government, it will long to promote mutually beneficial ties with Ukraine, like Chernomyrdin's team does. Such ties reflect real relations between two countries," the speaker said.

Moroz said he considers it to be a natural phenomenon that public mood inclines towards left wing political forces: "It is felt everywhere and, first of all, in the former Warsaw Pact countries."

Prime Minister Says Relations With Russia Depend on Economy

LD2012121195 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0950 GMT 20 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev [no date as received] — "The elections in Russia reflect the situation which has arisen there and I do not see any tragedy in this," Ukraine's Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk said at a seminar of chairmen of town councils of towns of regional subordination.

Touching on the issue of Ukraine's future relations with Russia, the prime minister said he was sure that they "would be dictated by the economic situation."

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Communists Laud Russian Communists' Duma Success

LD1812180895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1633 GMT 18 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, Dec 18 (Interfax - Ukraine) — The leader of Ukraine's Communist Party said on Monday the Russian Communists' electoral success "has confirmed once again how destructive the path of reforms is."

The Russians' "high appraisal" of the Communist Party "will serve to accelerate the objective processes of the understanding of the situation by the citizens of Ukraine," Petr Simonenko told Interfax - Ukraine in comments on Sunday's election for the State Duma, Russia's lower house of parliament.

The leader of Ukraine's opposition Rukh party said, however: "The Russian Communists in the election campaign made use of the structures and apparatus of the former Communist Party of the USSR."

Vyacheslav Chornovil, talking to Interfax, described Russian Communist leader Gennadiy Zyuganov as a "flexible and cautious" politician and forecast that, if he shifted somewhat "to the right," he would become one of "the real candidates for the post of president of Russia at the future presidential election."

National Affairs

Prime Minister, President To Maintain Normal Relations

LD1912153095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1301 GMT 19 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kyiv, December 19 Interfax - Ukraine — The Ukrainian President and the Prime Minister maintain "normal working relations", said President Kuchma in answer to a question from "IF-U" in Kyiv during the visit to the Chief Administration of the National Interior Ministry Tuesday.

The President expressed the opinion that the question about the mutual relations between the two top officials of the state "shall be put to the Premier, rather than to the President". "The President has so far no cause to draw any conclusions", President Kuchma added.

Crimean Parliament Dismisses Premier Franchuk

LD1912180895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1802 GMT 19 Dec 95

[By Lev Ryabchikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SIMFEROPOL, December 19 (Itar-Tass) — The Crimean parliament adopted a resolution to relieve Prime Minister Anatoliy Franchuk of his duties, instead of impeaching him.

Ten days before, a majority of Crimean MPs had made a motion of no confidence in the prime minister and demanded that speaker Yevhen Franchuk submit it to the Ukrainian leadership for approval.

However, Anatoliy Franchuk handed in a resignation in view of being elected a member of the Ukrainian parliament.

Accident at Khmelnitskiy Nuclear Power Station

LD1912193795 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1843 GMT 19 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 19 Dec (UKRINFORM-TASS) — The generator of the first power unit of the Khmelnitskiy nuclear power station was cut off from the network today at 1455. This happened "due to local combustion of hydrogen that was seeping from a crack in a pipe that supplies hydrogen to the cooling unit," the station management said. The local combustion stopped 10 minutes later, when the generator was transferred to nitrogen.

There have been no breaches of limits or safety conditions in the operation of the plant, UKRINFORM was told at the Khmelnitskiy power station.

Navy Servicemen Seize Black Sea Fleet Food Depot

LD1912213895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1942 GMT 19 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SEVASTOPOL, Dec 19 (Interfax - Ukraine) — A group of Ukrainian navy servicemen armed with sticks and twigs tried to penetrate into a food depot of the Black Sea Fleet (BSF) in Donuzlav near Sevastopol Monday [18 December] evening, a source close to the BSF command told Interfax Tuesday.

"Acting in strict accordance with the regulations, the guard opened warning fire above heads after repeated warnings," the source added. "The attackers were dispersed, but later on the same group led by senior officer Vitaly Ustimenko seized a coast guard base and food depot pretending to deliver food," he added.

"All these installations were to be transferred to Ukraine under a special document. However, this document has not yet been signed. After the installations were seized, the BSF command unilaterally compiled a document on their transfer to the Ukrainian navy," the source said.

BSF First Deputy Commander Vice Admiral Gennadiy Suchkov left for Donuzlav to look into the incident on the spot.

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Acting BSF Commander Vice Admiral Pyotr Svyatashov described the incident as a "result of the temporary joint basing of the two fleets on one territory" and as an "example of the uncontrollability of Ukrainian navy units."

Meanwhile, the Ukrainian navy press center told Interfax - Ukraine that the attackers had brought food to the storage. "The navy servicemen were not armed, but a BSF officer on duty opened warning fire. After the police arrived, the incident was settled," it added.

The Ukrainian navy does not have armed units in Donuzlav, but a special commission for acceptance testing of transferred BSF installations, the press center said.

"There cannot be any question of an armed seizure," the press center underlined.

According to the press center, Ukrainian Navy Commander Vladimir Bezkorovainy is now in Donuzlav.

Navy Denies Incident

LD1912214295 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1840 GMT 19 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sevastopol — The press center of the Ukrainian Navy has refuted media reports about the alleged "capture" of facilities by Ukrainian Navy officers at the Crimean naval base in Donuzlav. The Navy described the reports as "falsification."

"Work is in progress in Novoozernoye village and other places on the takeover of armaments, military equipment, and military assets from the Black Sea Fleet according to the agreed schedule," says the press center's statement.

Ukrainian Navy Commander Admiral Volodymyr Bezkorovaynyy and Rear-Admiral Gennadiy Suchkov, first deputy commander of the Black Sea Fleet met in Novoozernoye on 19 December to discuss the course of the transfer.

The Ukrainian Navy does not need to capture the facilities that it is going to take over under bilateral agreements by 31 December 1995, the statement says.

The navy press center expressed regret over the fact that the media had circulated unconfirmed information, which was not conducive to the joint efforts of the Ukrainian Navy and Black Sea Fleet commissions to resolve the fleet problems.

Economic Issues

Minister Announces 1996 Foreign Debt Projection

WS2012112295 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 0813 GMT 20 Dec 95

[From the "Current Events" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ukraine's Finance Minister Vasyl Hureyev has disclosed that the draft budget for 1996 provides for spending 275.9 trillion karbovantsi (1,266 million dollars) on servicing Ukraine's foreign debts in 1996. Out of this sum, about 1 billion dollars will be spent on repaying debts owed to CIS countries. By January 1, 1996, Ukraine's foreign debts will have amounted to 6.6 billion dollars, including 4,590 million dollars owed to CIS countries, 1 billion dollars due on credits provided under intergovernmental agreements, and 820 million dollars owed to international financial organizations. Next year, Ukraine expects to obtain foreign credits in an amount not less than 2 billion dollars, including 1,140 million dollars from the International Monetary Fund and 900 million dollars from the World Bank. Meanwhile, Mr. Hureyev has stressed that Ukraine is not in a position to repay its debts. Ukraine's 1996 gross domestic product is expected to stand at 7,140 trillion karbovantsi.

National Bank Chief Notes Lower Inflation in 1995

WS2012114395 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0219 GMT 20 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Dec. 18 — Ukraine achieved financial stability and real incomes expanded during 1995 while inflation shrank, National Bank of Ukraine Chairman Victor Yushchenko said Dec. 18 closing a conference of bankers.

"We have a good base to start 1996 with," Yushchenko said, referring to income levels outpacing inflation in recent years.

According to Yushchenko, the real income of Ukrainians increased 32.9 percent in 1993, with an inflation rate of 10,182 percent; incomes increased 30.8 percent in 1994, while inflation was 508 percent; incomes increased about 40 percent in 1995, with an inflation of 265 percent for the year. The indexes of 1992 were taken for 100 percent. During 1995 the real incomes per one person in dollars made up $25 in January and $56 in December.

Yushchenko said real expenses increased 37.9 percent in 1993; 38.9 percent in 1994; and approximately 54 percent in 1995.

"After two years of constant falling — producing recession in 1993 — we started digging out of the

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grave," Yushchenko said. "Now the population spends in real indexes more than a half of 1992 expenses.

An important development in Ukraine's financial markets is issuing state securities to cover national deficit spending rather than covering the debt with bank credit, which has contributed to inflation, Yushchenko said.

"As the experience of this year shows, we are on the right way," the NBU chairman said.

Sales of state securities will be once a week in the first quarter and daily in the second quarter. From the third quarter onward, sale can be done any time during the working day.

So far, a total of KBV [karbovantsi] 27 billion in securities was placed at 25 auctions, KBV18 billion of them are placed. State securities for KBV150 billion are planned for next year, possible with the turnover KBV 360 billion, Yushchenko said.

"We are planning to create the real market of capital with all its six segments: currency, credit, insurance, interbank, investment and fundational," Yushchenko said.

However, to do so will require capping inflation to 33 percent per year, about 1.5 percent to 1.8 percent per month, according to the NBU chief, maintaining that conditions appear favorable: in a December week as much capital was given out as in three weeks in January.

Yushchenko said the conditions for a long-term credit market have appeared in Ukraine during the past year: credit rates on Dec. 14 made up 106.5 percent (+1 percent) and were 101.3 percent (+0.3 percent) Dec. 18 with the NBU re-financing rate of 110 percent (+4 percent).

"The results of stabilization are already showing in productivity. The industrial incomes made up KBV513 billion for the first half a year; KBV1.264 billion for 10 months, with 153 percent inflation, when the income for the whole 1994 was only KBV 475 billion," Yushchenko said.

Ukrainian banks expanded in the past year also, Yushchenko said: In the beginning of January 215 banks had at their disposal the total regulated capital of KBV 8,732 billion, in December 203 banks were valued for KBV 39,561 billion.

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Moldova

Snegur, French Official Discuss Russian Election

AU1912163495 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2210 GMT 18 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, 18/12/1995 (BASA-press) — "Under the circumstances when Communists and Liberals may win the majority in the Russian State Duma and create difficulties for the Dniester conflict settlement, Moldova highly appreciates the French support for Moldova's territorial integrity," said President Snegur at today's meeting with Marie Sudre, state secretary for Francophony at the French Foreign Ministry.

According to a presidential press release, Snegur favored "the strengthening of the Friendship and Cooperation Treaty, by signing agreements on avoidance of double taxation and investment protection."

In her turn Sudre said France "supports Moldova's independence and territorial integrity and is convinced that the special status propose to the eastern districts is acceptable."

President Snegur said "the special status proposed to Dniester is the final compromise. For a peaceful settlement of the Dniester problem we count on support and understanding from Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin and Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma."

Sudre said the French government would sign next spring an agreement with the Chisinau government on avoidance of double taxation.

Speaker Luchinskiy Hopes To Cooperate With New Duma

LD1912203595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1915 GMT 19 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CHISINAU, Dec 19 (Interfax) — Moldovan Parliamentary Chairman Petr Luchinskiy told Interfax today that he hoped the country's legislature would have "normal relations" with Russia's new State Duma, parliament's lower chamber.

Luchinskiy also said he hoped that the new Duma would "ensure a more clear and stable policy of the Russian parliament."

"This would allow the Moldovan parliament to establish closer contacts with the Duma and find common positions, in particular regarding the Transdniester conflict," Luchinskiy said. Moldova's Transdniester region is a self-proclaimed republic composed largely of ethnic Russians.

"I do not think that the elections to the State Duma are a message for curtailing reforms. Nobody will abolish the market- orientated economy," Luchinskiy said.

Nevertheless, Luchinskiy said he was concerned about the election to the State Duma of deputies "who may wish to revise decisions concerning Moldova's independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty." However, he said he was confident that Russia's new parliament would not make "hasty decisions" similar to the former Duma's resolution on the Transdniester region. (The State Duma then declared Moldova's Transdniester region a zone of Russia's special interests - IF).

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Kazahkstan

Nazarbayev Edict Amends National Security Law

MM2012113395 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Dec 95 p 1

[Report by Anatoliy Ladin: "Kazakhstan: New 'Home' for Government Communications"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Almaty — Kazakhstani President Nursultan Nazarbayev has issued an edict with the force of law making amendments and additions to the republic law on national security organs and certain presidential acts.

In particular, the Kazakhstani Presidential Protection Service structure now includes the government communications troops. And the Presidential Protection Service has been made directly responsible for providing the president, state organs, the Armed Forces, and Kazakhstan's other troops and troop formations with government communications.

Kazakh Official on Effect of Duma Elections

LD1912202695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1915 GMT 19 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ALMATY, Dec 19 (Interfax) — Kazakh First Deputy Prime Minister Nigmatzhan Isingarin believes the Communist victory in Duma elections will not affect Russia's policy towards CIS countries.

He told a news conference in Almaty Tuesday that Russia's economic policy is not expected to change either. He said he made the conclusion on the basis of his "meetings with former Communist Duma deputies and with other Communist Party officials."

According to Isingarin, he was not surprised by the results of the Russian elections because a relative Communist victory "had been predicted in advance." The main struggle is expected at the presidential elections, he said.

Kazakh Council Discusses Border Control Issues

LD1912162895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1425 GMT 19 Dec 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Arkadiy Rotmistrovskiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ALMATY, December 19 — The Kazakh Security Council has met in session today chaired by Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev to discuss a status of the Kazakh Security Council, a concept of the protection of its state borders, issues of reinforcing border guard troops and the construction of border guard facilities on the Kazakh external frontiers.

It was pointed out that due to changes which took place this year in the political, social and economic situation in the country, the expansion of Kazakhstan's international contacts, the adoption of the new Kazakh constitution and a number of other factors a need has arisen to make changes in the structure and membership of the Security Council and methods of its work.

Discussing ways of tightening border control, participants noted that this problem was inseparably connected with Kazakhstan's foreign and domestic policies and the presidential course for the persistent implementation of reforms under conditions of peace and accord in society. It was pointed out that strengthening contacts and cooperation with Russia, Central Asian republics, other CIS countries and the world community in general was of principle importance for ensuring stability in border areas.

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Armenia

Karabakh Talks With Azerbaijan Begin in The Hague

NC1912143795 Yerevan SNARK in English 0352 GMT 19 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, December 19 (SNARK) — Vafa Guluzade, State Advisor for Foreign Policy Affairs, informed HABAR service that first bilateral Armeno-Azeri talks on a peace resolution to the Karabakh conflict started in The Hague on December 19. Guluzade represents Azerbaijan at the talks. According to him, the meeting is neither of separate nor of official character. The decision of bilateral contacts between the belligerents was made by the OSCE Minsk group in course of last round of negotiations in Bonn.

Nuclear Plant at Low Capacity Due to Unstable Power Network

NC1912202195 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1900 GMT 19 Dec 95

[FBIS Translated Text] After a brief rest, the turbines of the Armenian nuclear power plant have regained their former strength. Plant director Suren Azatyan told an ARMENPRES correspondent that the capacity of the energy block was raised to 310 Megawatts at 2300 on 18 December. According to the director, the planned brief reduction in power production made it possible to inspect and confirm the reliability of specific mechanisms. Suren Azatyan assured: We are now in a position to increase the power generating capacity of the plant to 376 Megawatts as long as the consumer network absorbs that amount of power. The problem is that the power distribution network is not stable therefore the nuclear power plant's capacity cannot be raised to the desired level. According to the director, the plant is forced to work at low capacity. A stable and reliable distribution network must be set up, as fluctuations in power production are not good for the nuclear plant or the network.

Prime Minister Stresses Importance of Liberalizing Economy

NC1912213895 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 1250 GMT 19 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] 19/12/95 NOYAN TAPAN— Last week Armenian Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan made a statement in the Parliament to the effect that the Government was firm in continuing the policy of liberalization of the economy. According to him, simple settlement of a number of juridical problems of the economy could yield significant growth of budget receipts even without real growth of economy.

"It is obvious for me that a country which possesses no natural resources, ... [ellipsis as received] have no right to deprive economic subjects of freedom of action. Brains, labor and hands are the main resources of our country, and they demand freedom. And a country which wants to maintain its independence cannot but follow such a policy", Bagratyan said after the Parliament had approved the state budget for 1996.

According to Prime Minister, the state must change the forms of working with people, must rule the country following the laws only. All the legal field existed before must be altered, including criminal, civil, criminal-procedure fields. "All this is aimed at ensuring partiality and indifference (in positive sense of the word) of the state, government and authorities towards financial activity of economic subjects, which will allow to increase budget receipts by 35-40 percent as a minimum. A spirit of confidence should reign in society", Grant Bagratyan said, adding that otherwise, there will appear a worse situation than it was before privatization, and the achievements of economic activity will become the monopoly of a few individuals.

According to Prime Minister, out of 72 billion drams of budget revenues only 2.5 billion drams are provided by the village, whereas, today it produces 35 percent of the Republic's gross domestic product. Pointing out that it is a deliberate policy aimed at raising agriculture, Mr. Bagratyan said that the taxation level of agriculture should be raised, especially taking into account the fact that the main concern of the village - irrigation expenses - is fully assumed by the state. This will bring 25-35 million US dollars for the budget.

Grant Bagratyan reported that the Government intended to start the next financial year on October 1 in order to decrease the fluctuations amplitude of macro-economic indices in the beginning and by the end of the year.

Besides, an attempt was made to work out a program of 3-year-long economic cooperation with the assistance of financial organizations and countries-donors. Mr. Bagratyan expressed hope that negotiations over this issue would be successfully completed in January-February.

Azerbaijan

Foreign Ministry Not Worried by Communist Victory in Russia

NC1912144195 Yerevan SNARK in English 0332 GMT 19 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, December 19 (SNARK) — The Azeri Foreign Affairs Ministry did not worry

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that communists, according to preliminary data, won the elections to the Russian Duma.

Foreign Minister Hasan Hasanov told RIA Novosti reporter the election results would hardly change the Russian foreign policy. The future situation depends upon those who will establish a coalition with communists, noted Hasanov.

Minister on Desire for 'Intimate' Ties With Iran

LD2012150995 Tehran IRNA in English 1115 GMT 20 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, Dec. 20, IRNA — Azeri Foreign Minister Hasan Hasanov, in a meeting held with Iranian Ambassador to Baku 'Ali Reza Bikdeli here on Tuesday [19 Decmber], expressed hope that the bilateral ties keep an upward movement.

Hasanov emphasized on positive results of Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs Mahmud Va'ezi' s visit to Azerbaijan. The Republic of Azerbaijan, he added, is willing to have a close and intimate relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and has always announced it. Hasanov also voiced his readiness to visit Tehran once again and to meet Iranian officials.

Meanwhile, the congratulation message of Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on the occasion of 'ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] Day' was submitted to Hasanov. Touching the significance of the Economic Cooperation Organization, ECO, Velayati in his message called for the expansion of cooperation between Iran and ECO within the framework of ECO and also underscored more activity of Azerbaijan in this organization.

Azeri officials construed recent Va'ezi's trip to the Republic of Azerbaijan as a turning point in bilateral relations.

'Coolness' With Iran

LD1512155395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1432 GMT 15 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAKU, Dec 15 (Interfax) — Azerbaijan's state foreign-policy advisor Vafa Guluzade stated that Iranian Foreign Minister Mahmud Va'ezi's three-day visit to the Azerbaijani capital Baku, which ended on Thursday [14 December], was very successful.

"Although there was some coolness in Iranian-Azerbaijani relations," all disagreements had been settled during the talks, he told Interfax.

There must not and will not be any serious disagreements between Iran and Azerbaijan over the status of the Caspian Sea. The sides have come to the opinion, he said, that the interests of each Caspian state must be taken into account and protected.

He announced that an agreement had also been reached that Azerbaijani President Heydar Aliyev would pay an official visit to the Iranian capital Tehran shortly.

Cooperation on Oil Project

LD1912103395 Tehran IRNA in English 0826 GMT 19 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, Dec. 19, IRNA — The Azerbaijan Republic announced its readiness to cooperate with Iran in developing any project that Iran would be interested in. The Baku- based weekly "AYENEH" wrote in its latest edition that Nateq Aliyev, the head of the Azeri oil company, indicated Baku's position in a meeting held in Tehran with Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh.

The weekly quoted Aliyev as saying that the Azeri republic is ready to cooperate in developing the Shah Deniz oil field, and also any other oil basin that Iran would be interested in. Moreover, the Azeri official, in his interview with the weekly, evaluated his recent visit to Iran as "positive". He said he did not construe Iran's silence as a refusal of the invitation extended by Baku for Tehran to take part in the exploitation of Shah Deniz oil field in the Caspian Sea. A consortium has been set up for implementing this project, he added, of which 40 percent belonged to the Azerbaijan republic. This venture is estimated cost some dlrs. 3 billion to 4 billion, Aliyev said.

The Shah Deniz is located in the Caspian Sea 100 km from southeastern Baku. Its deposits are placed at about 200 million tons of associated gas and 400 billion cubic meters of gas.

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Estonia

Parliament Relieves Einseln of Defense Post

WS1912141795 Tallinn BNS in English 1133 GMT 19 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Dec 19, BNS — Parliament Tuesday [19 December] relieved commander of the Estonian defense force Aleksander Einseln of his post.

Einseln's relief was supported by 53 MPs, with 22 against and 3 abstaining. 16 members of parliament did not take part in the voting.

Einseln will be relieved of his post one day after the publication of the parliament's decision in Riigi Teataja, the official gazette. By that time Einseln must appoint two deputies to command the defense forces until a new defense forces commander has been appointed.

Einseln's relief was supported by the Coalition Party, the Rural Union, the Moderates and the Reform Party, while the Fatherland Union and the Right-wingers were unanimous in their support to Einseln.

Members of the Country People's Party and the Farmers' Assembly voted against the relief or abstained, and the center faction voted against or refrained from the voting.

The Russian faction did not participate in the voting.

Peeter Lorents, Head of the parliament's state defense commission, did not participate in the voting.

The parliament's deputy speaker, Arnold Ruutel, who had invited Einseln to Estonia, voted against Einseln's relief.

Member of the Fatherland Union Jaanus Betlem said in parliament before the decision on Einseln's relief was taken that all other accusations against Einseln except his patriotic fervor had been dropped.

"Patriotic fervor seems to be very thin ground to motivate the general's relief," Betlem said.

Betlem said Einseln's relief was comparabale to his political lynching and a political tribunal.

Enn Tarto (Right-wingers) said there was too little information to rely on to take a decision of such gravity. Tarto appealed to everybody to vote against Einseln's relief.

Head of the Fatherland Union faction Tunne Kelam said Einseln was ready to be relieved of his post later, till a new defense forces commander was found.

Einseln's resignation had been handed when he took up his post, just in case "if his role should create problems in Estonian- American or Estonian-NATO relations," Kelam said.

Member of the Center faction Priit Aimla said the faction did not think it possible to relieve Einseln in such a hurried way without knowing the reasons.

The motion to relieve Lieutenant-General Einseln of his post was made by President Lennart Meri on Dec. 3 after a State Defense Council meeting. Meri then signed the resignation Einseln had left on May 4, 1993 on taking up his post.

Speaking in parliament last Tuesday Einseln admitted he was not leaving of his own free will. "I did not resign, I was dismissed by the President," Einseln said.

Einseln said his present groundless relief served as a repercussion to the democratic development of the Estonian Defense Force.

President Meri motivated his decision to relieve Einseln of his post by his interference in politics. "It is tragic that the general should not have noticed how his honest and clean patriotic fervor was gradually retreating before his political opinions, which have become more and more political and sharper over the past year," Meri said in a statement two weeks ago.

Aleksander Einseln (64), was appointed commander of the Estonian defense force on May 4, 1993. He accepted the post after serving more than 35 years in the US Army. He took part in the campaigns in Korea and Vietnam, serving in special forces, and was five years in the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Einseln has said he might set up his own party and go into politics when he was relieved. He has not yet made public what political force he intends to join.

Two weeks ago the President suggested Lieutenant-Colonel Johannes Kert, now Commander of the Defense League, for the post of defense forces commander, but the parliament refused to discuss Kert's nomination and took the respective bill off the agenda.

Lithuania

Parliament Approves Sending Troops to Bosnia

LD2012123295 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1000 GMT 20 Dec 95

[Report by Guoda Salciute at the Seimas on 20 December — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The first voting today was for the participation of the Lithuanian army detachment in the peace enforcement operation under NATO command in the former Yugoslavia. Sixty-seven Seimas

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members voted in favor of this decision, six voted against and eight members abstained from voting.

The argument supporting the decision was the Lithuanian detachment to the former Yugoslavia is our country's contribution to regional peace in Europe, boosting Lithuania's image on an international scale. It is also a good training for the Lithuanian servicemen.

Those opposing troop allocation maintain that the peace in Yugoslavia should have been taken care about 44 months ago when thousands of people killed in the war were still alive. They contend that our own country and our own army should be taken care of first, and then send army detachments to other countries.

However, the majority of the Lithuanian Seimas members approved sending of the Lithuanian peacemakers to the NATO peace enforcement operation in the former Yugoslavia. [passage omitted]

President, Officials Discuss Energy Supply Sector

LD1912222095 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2000 GMT 19 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The situation in the Lithuanian energy sector was the topic of consultations on Monday between President Algirdas Brazauskas, Minister of Energy Arvydas Lescinskas, and directors of the Bank of Lithuania.

The Lithuanian president was informed on the state of the energy sector and the sources of financing the system in 1996 when electricity and gas prices will again be raised were discussed.

Energy Minister Arvydas Leacinskas told reporters that the possibilities for reconstruction and modernization of the energy sector were also on the meeting's agenda, the daily LIETUVOS RYTAS reports.

Commenting on the conflict between the Ignalina Atomic Power Plant and the Lietuvos Energija [Lithuanian Energy Suppliers] company, Mr. Brazauskas said that litigation of this sort was highly inappropriate. It was decided that the Ministry of Energy would submit a plan of actions within two weeks to the administration to resolve the conflict.

The Ignalina Power Plant filed a law suit against the company Lietuvos Energija several months ago to force the company to pay its 189 million litas debts for energy already generated and sold.

Defense Minister: No Alternative to NATO for Security

LD1912215095 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2000 GMT 19 Dec 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lithuanian Defense Minister Linas Linkevicius says the only guarantor of Lithuania's security is membership in NATO and there is no other alternative of collective security for the country.

On Tuesday [19 December] Mr Linkevicius answered questions at the Lithuanian parliament. The defense minister tried to calm down some members of the parliament who were concerned of the great assignations to the military foreseen in next year's budget.

Mr Linkevicius expressed hope that the Lithuanian army should become stronger after the decision was recently passed to allow the use of foreign loans for equipping the Lithuanian army. Although we are not able to participate in all programs, Lithuania has been mentioned in the West as one of the fastest progress making young countries, said the defense minister.

Compliance to the Western standards is not the main condition for being admitted to NATO, Mr Linkevicius said. According to him, solid democracy in the country, civilian control over the armed forces and good relations with the neighboring states are much more important.

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